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# That was more like the Socceroos

By Roy Hay

**A team which looked more like the Socceroos came off the pitch at Rustenburg distraught that they had not beaten Ghana despite playing two-thirds of the match with ten men.**

That tells you volumes about the underlying quality of this team, which has been much maligned since its capitulation against Germany in the opening game.

Now the question is can the older members of the team back up in three days time to defeat Serbia and hope that the real Germany accounts for Ghana?

Assuming full fitness, the straight swap of Cahill for Kewell and Beauchamp for the suspended Craig Moore gives Australia its best chance of achieving its part of the group results. Serbia has a technical quality to burn, but has looked nothing like the side which strolled through the qualifiers. Having got the required result against Croatia in 2006, is it really beyond this group of Socceroos to pull out another miracle in Nelspruit?

I, for one, am more confident of that than I was of a result against Germany and a win over Ghana.

Tactically, Pim Verbeek made just about the best use of his resources after Kewell was dismissed, correctly but harshly, for preventing a goal-bound shot reaching the net.

Carney had his best game in the green and gold, while Wilkshire was immense, and the two central defenders made some superb interventions, forcing the Ghanaians to shoot from long range or under pressure. That was what was missing against Germany.

The midfield kept its shape with Valeri and Culina in particular covering huge amounts of ground to stop players running at the last line of defence, and yet contribute going forward when Australia had the ball.

Bresciano, the tireless Emerton and Holman complemented each other very well, showing invention and steel when necessary.



Harry Kewell feels the wrath of referee Roberto Rosettiand and is sent off after the ball struck his arm on the goal-line. PHOTO: SMP IMAGES

Behind them Schwarzer picked up everything in the air, was decisive in his box and stopped the few shots which were on target. You could not ask for more from the keeper.

Harry Kewell was hardly on the pitch long enough to judge what he could contribute.

He went down a couple of time, with assistance, but perhaps a little easily,

but you were left wondering what he might have achieved over 60 minutes, both on his own account and in the mental stress he would have caused the Ghanaian defenders.

The substitutes, particularly Scott Chipperfield with his mobility and versatility, played their part in the result.

Kennedy tried hard to get the knock-

downs and certainly created the possibility of his tiring colleagues being able to feed off scraps he produced.

Rukavytsya had only five minutes at the end and little chance to shine.

So it is still possible to dream about qualification from this enormously tough group and if ever a band of players deserved that then those who did the country proud on Sunday morning

are the ones.

The evenness of the abilities throughout the team, and the fierce commitment to get a result, rather than the individual qualities, will turn out to be the strengths in the end, I suspect.

## Well Kempt Referee's 2 Socceroos 0

By Con Stamocostas

**There are not enough swear words in the English language to express the anger, rage and frustration of a Socceroos fan who has been watching Australia at the World Cup in South Africa.**

Australia swept aside the memory of the Germany game and started their second World Cup game against Ghana like men possessed. With eyeballs popping out of their heads every Socceroo was pressing a Ghana player every time they got the ball. It would not be re-miss of me to say that some Australian players looked like they had taken the route of some members of the 1978 World Cup winning Argentinean team who were doped to their eyeballs in that tournament. Not that I am saying the Socceroos were doped up, but they just looked like it.

The first half was frantic, wacky and frustrating. A Mark Bresciano free kick tamed the Jabulani ball, the Ghana keeper couldn't handle and the most derided player in the history of the Soc-

ceroos Brett Holman scores the rebound and only goal so far for the Socceroos at South Africa 2010. 1-0 nil all up and it's the perfect start. But then a few minutes later the Socceroos were conceding good position to Ghana, the verve and drive of the Socceroos had disappeared for a small moment and the most dangerous player on the pitch winger Andre Ayew beat two players down the right flank to send in a dangerous cross and then the swear words came out when Harry Kewell was sent off for deliberate hand ball on the Ghana goal line. After Tim Cahill's send off in the first game it almost felt like I was getting used to this but Gyan struck the penalty, Ghana are level the Socceroos have 10 men and Gyan still dances like he has to go to the toilet real quick.

My friends and family were shouting at Half Time: "don't worry; we are going to have two chances to score in the second half." And we did. Scott Chipperfield who was brilliant when came on missed a header with his first touch and Luke Wilkshire failed when he had a one on one situation with the keeper and

Josh Kennedy disappointingly did a Peter Crouch air swing with the rebound.

The game was one of those unforgettable World Cup games and the final score of 1-1 sets up final game against Serbia needing the Socceroos to win big and other results to go our way. We should believe Australia because anything can happen in this absolutely crazy and mental Group D.

It's amazing that the Socceroos are still in with a chance to progress to the second round. The World Cup has been a nightmare; most of the big refereeing decisions are going against the Socceroos. Our two best players getting sent off in consecutive games both appear to be very harsh decisions and technically you can say yes they are red cards but you can also argue that the other teams have not been punished like Australia. Just like the Ghanaian midfielder who tackled Bresciano from behind, he only received a yellow card and you just wonder if Brecs had rolled around and milked the challenge and if the other players circled the referee he could have been pressured to give a red instead of a yellow but the

Socceroos don't play like that.

The sight of these well kempt referees with their little shorts, over elaborate use of hair product and their awful decisions during this World Cup makes me think we should let them have their own Nike commercial, that way they don't have to feel like being the centre of attention all the time. It's not enough for these sporting sociopath's to be on TV and blow a whistle no they have to spoil a free flowing game.

After the game I indulged in some post match banter with Ghana journalist Gary Al Smith the Ghana football writer for worldcupblog.org:

"Lucky Ghana what can I say. One of your midfielder's should have got a red card, Kewell's handball was not a red card and now I wait for Germany to kick your lucky Ghanaian ass."I said. To which he replied: "Well, tell Mr Kewell to stop handling balls in the vital area, then? And don't forget that the Roos destiny is in GHANA's hands."

So to the last game against Serbia, we need a miracle to happen and you have to believe it can happen considering all the

unbelievable results that have occurred in South Africa so far.

Just like Serbia's previous two games I'm sure they have a handball in the box waiting for us. It would be rude of them not to give Australia the same gift they shared with Ghana and Germany. I posed this thought to Nikola Burazer the Serbian writer for the worldcupblog.org website and he said:

"Yes, that would be polite from Serbia. Do you have any idea who might be the next one to handball? Ivanović, Subotić, Stanković? No, seriously, you should not expect a penalty from Serbia, only a red card. At every tournament, we concede two penalties and receive two red cards. So, expect some of our boys to go red."

So make sure you look out your window you might see some pigs flying around this week,, at least the Socceroos are alive for the final game we get Timmy back and have a another few days of hoping ,worrying and dreaming.



# Mexico surprises world as France stumble

By Jacob Kagi

**France requires a miracle just to get out of the group stage after its shock 2-0 loss to Mexico in Group A of the World Cup.**

The French have one point from two games after its 0-0 draw with Uruguay on the opening night of the tournament, putting it third in the group, clear of South Africa on goal difference.

France will need to beat South Africa and hope the game between Uruguay and Mexico at the same time on June 22 is not a draw, with a tie between those two enough to ensure they will both progress.

But if Mexico can beat Uruguay, the combined goal difference turnaround with France's winning margin over South Africa and Mexico's in that game would have to be at least five goals, which would likely see France go through on goals scored.

If Uruguay beat Mexico, the turnaround would only have to be four goals, but both scenarios are unlikely and France coach Raymond Domenech has admitted this side needs a miracle to progress.

One thing working in France's favour is Mexico will be keen to avoid a draw with Uruguay, which would see it finish second in the group and almost certainly face a nightmare matchup with Argentina in the round of 16, so a free-flowing match may result.

France will certainly need to improve dramatically from its two performances so far to have any chance of progressing, after Mexico took advantage of 90 minutes of dominance to secure a late victory.

New Manchester United signing Javier Hernandez came on as a substitute and put Mexico ahead after 64 minutes, before veteran Cuauhtemoc Blanco secured the win with a goal from the penalty spot in the 79th minute.

It was Mexico's first win over France at senior level, and a vital one which puts it in the box seat to progress to the knock-out rounds.

Mexico were fluid on the ball and showed great creativity and flair in attack, led by the runs of Carlos Salcido from left-back, but also solid in defence against France's insipid display.

Domanech will have to answer many questions after again leaving Thierry Henry on the bench, while Nicolas Anelka coming off at half-time and Franck Ribery looking out of sorts as a lone striker after that.

Eric Abidal gave the penalty away for France with a stupid tackle and may be under pressure to keep his spot for the final game, but central defensive partner William Gallas looked unconvincing as well.

The 2006 runners-up face the likelihood of exiting at the group stage for the second time in the last three World Cups and in consecutive major tournaments, after suffering the same fate in Euro 2008, suggesting its poor qualifying campaign wasn't the anomaly many thought it was.

Any realistic hopes host nation South Africa had of a dream run into the round of 16 ended with its 3-0 loss to Uruguay, which saw the South Americans climb to the top of the group.

Diego Forlan, the hero of Atletico Madrid's successful Europa League campaign, continued his stunning resurgence

as a top level footballer with Uruguay's opening goal in the 24th minute, before securing the three points after converting a penalty in the 80th minute.

Alvaro Pereira gave Uruguay an important goal difference boost with a 90th minute goal, with his finish meaning his side just requires a draw against Mexico to finish on top of its group and set up a round of 16 meeting with the second place side from Group B, likely to be South Korea.

South Africa gave an energetic performance many of the home fans will be proud of but were unable to convert several long spells of positive play in midfield into many good chances, despite having 58% of the possession for the match.

Luis Suarez combined admirably with Forlan for the Uruguayans, with both able to take advantage of a poor game from Bafana Bafana captain Aaron Mokoena, who has been disappointing throughout the tournament after being largely responsible for Mexico's goal in the 1-1 draw in the World Cup's opening game.

The most plausible way for the South Africans to progress is for Uruguay to comfortably beat Mexico and for Bafana Bafana to pull off a shock win over France, but a combined five goal turnaround in goal difference with it and Mexico would be necessary to progress.

Mexico's clash with Uruguay on Tuesday is shaping as one of the most exciting games of the tournament, with both producing quality attacking football in their second games, while France will be favoured to keep its slim hopes alive with a big victory over the hosts.

## The Matches

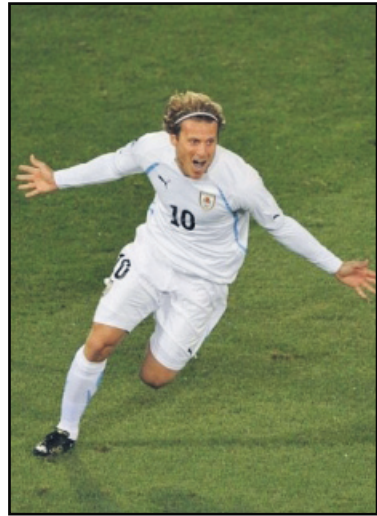
South Africa 1:1 Mexico  
Uruguay 0:0 France  
South Africa 0:3 Uruguay  
France 0:2 Mexico

Remaining:  
22/06 Mexico v Uruguay  
22/06 France v South Africa



## The Standings

|              | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Uruguay      | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 4   |
| Mexico       | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 4   |
| France       | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1   |
| South Africa | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1   |



Uruguay's striker Diego Forlan celebrates after scoring the opening goal against South Africa. Uruguay won 3-0 with two goals by Forlan.



Mexican players celebrate their second goal in the 2-0 win against France.

# Maradona's Argentina gathers steam

By Matt Galea

**Five goals in two games is an impressive achievement at this year's World Cup, where goals have been at a premium, but that's exactly what Argentina have managed in their opening two fixtures.**

Despite only beating Nigeria 1-0, the Argentines put on a scintillating display, and deserved to win by far more than Gabriel Heinze's brilliant diving header. The likes of Lionel Messi, Gonzalo Higuain, Carlos Tevez and Sergio Aguero have provided some much needed attacking flair and creativity at this World Cup, and will look to see out their final group fixture against Greece in similar fashion.

With possibly the strongest attacking force in the tournament, Argentina's defence seems their weakest point, and it will be interesting to see how it holds up in the latter stages of the competition. The goal gifted to the South Korean's by Martin Demichelis was without doubt a warning sign to Diego Maradonna that while his attackers are playing some fantastic football, he needs to be

mindful of his less than impressive defence.

Whilst Argentina has played arguably the best football in the tournament thus far, the Nigerians now face an incredibly tough battle to get themselves out of this group. Two flat performances against South Korea and now Greece have come as a surprise to many, as too many of Nigeria's brightest stars have failed to show up. The loss of John Obi Mikel has been a significant one, with the Nigerians looking incredibly weak in the middle of the park without the Chelsea man, whilst big names such as Yakubu and Martins have failed to have any impact on their campaign at all. No goals in two games and not as much as a point is a very poor return for a side who were expected to be strong contenders for second place in this group. Things could yet get worse when they take on a South Korean side, who were very impressive in their first fixture.

The South Koreans, who despite losing 4-1 to a much classier Argentine side, will be delighted that their World Cup fate lies largely in their own hands. Coming up against a demoralized Ni-

gerian side, a performance in a similar vain to the one they put in against Greece would surely be enough to put this team through to the knockout stages. The Koreans have looked very fluid going forward, attacking with speed and in numbers, knocking the ball around impressively. This mentality has left them exposed in defence, as the Argentinean's proved, however, another classy performance from Park Ji-Sung and his fellow attackers could well see them through a tough final fixture, and book their place in the knockout stages.

Of course, a win would not totally guarantee their progression, as a shock win for Greece against Argentina would result in their own progression. That said, any chances of a Greek victory against Argentina are surely slim. A red card against Nigeria gave Greece the upper hand in their vital win, however their performance against South Korea will surely haunt them coming into a contest against a far stronger team. You can never rule the Greeks out, however, it would truly be a shock to all should they pull off the win against the Argentineans.



A hat-trick by Gonzalo Higuain eased two-time champions Argentina to a 4-1 victory over South Korea.

## The Matches

Argentina 1:0 Nigeria  
Korea Republic 2:0 Greece  
Greece 2:1 Nigeria  
Argentina 4:1 Korea Republic

Remaining:  
22/06 Nigeria v Korea Republic  
22/06 Greece v Argentina



## The Standings

|                | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Argentina      | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 6   |
| Korea Republic | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 3   |
| Greece         | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3   |
| Nigeria        | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0   |



Vasilis Torosidis celebrates after Greece recorded their first ever win at the World Cup finals with a 2-1 win over 10-man Nigeria in the Group B clash.



# England need victory to progress

By Russ Gibbs

England was booed from the field by their own supporters and requires a victory over Slovenia in their final group match after a dull and uninspiring 0-0 draw with Algeria. England's highly-paid superstars have underachieved in Pool C of the 2010 FIFA World Cup to date drawing both their opening matches with the USA and now the North Africans.

It's been a stuttering start to the campaign for Fabio Capello's team who had been labelled as one of the pre-tournament favourites, expected to progress from this group with the minimum of fuss. However, as yet England have failed to click into gear putting on a pair of performances that had drawn the ire of their support and caused Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney to launch a scathing attack on the travelling fans for their reaction to the goal less draw with Algeria.

Rooney was seen to blast the England support into a television camera as he was leaving the field commenting "nice to see your home fans booing." The feisty hit-man later apologised for his heat of the moment comment stating, "I said things in the heat of the moment out of frustration of our performance and the result," he said in a Football Association statement. "For my part I apologise for any offence caused by my actions."

For his part Rooney was fairly innocuous in the 0-0 draw at times seem-

ing to feel his ankle, which he twisted during his club's UEFA Champions League Quarter Final first leg defeat to Bayern Munich. As ever, Emile Heskey huffed and puffed to little effect whilst Steven Gerrard and Frank Lampard failed to reproduce anything remotely resembling their club form as England struggled to make an impact.

Indeed, but for Gerrard's header that was easily held in the Algerian goal, there was hardly a meaningful chance for England as a failure to shoot when in promising positions and a lack of a creative spark saw the match largely become a non-event.

The Three Lions need to put the match, and incident, behind them as they face a make or break clash with surprise packets Slovenia for a place in the last sixteen. Slovenia had already beaten Algeria 1-0 in their opening Pool C encounter before taking a 2-0 advantage in the fixture over the USA after goals from Valter Birsa and Zlatan Ljubijankic had put the Eastern European nation into the driving seat.

USA Coach Bob Bradley made a double change at the interval and after Landon Donovan thrashed into the net from close range to reduce the deficit it was Bradley's son, Michael, which drew the States level in the 82nd minute. Indeed, USA was unfortunate not to claim all three points when Maurice Edu saw his stoppage time goal ruled out for an alleged foul in the Slovenia penalty area.

Slovenia have looked lively in attack in their two matches to date, but do look susceptible to a team that at-

tacks with width and gets crosses into the penalty area. Having never won a match at the World Cup before, the Slovenians know that a point against England will see them into an improbable place in the second round. Expect them to set their stall out and defend as if their lives depend on it against Capello's troops.

The USA can confirm their qualification if they defeat Algeria and, depending on the result of the England versus Slovenia game, and the manner of the States win, could in fact take top spot in the Pool.

Algeria also has an outside chance of progress themselves should they defeat the USA in the final Pool match. Whilst not yet scoring a goal, they lost the opener 0-1 to Slovenia before frustrating England, there is no reason that the Desert Foxes should not be able to equal their performance against England in the match versus the USA. Rugged defensively and neat and tidy in their approach work the Algerians have struggled to create any meaningful chances so far but it's only a matter of time before they change that statistic.

A USA win seems the more likely but in a group that has so far seen little to separate the four combatants anything is possible. However, what is certain is that England needs a win. Anything less and it could well be the end of the road for the Three Lions.

The Matches

England 1:1 USA  
Algeria 0:1 Slovenia  
Slovenia 2:2 USA  
England 0:0 Algeria

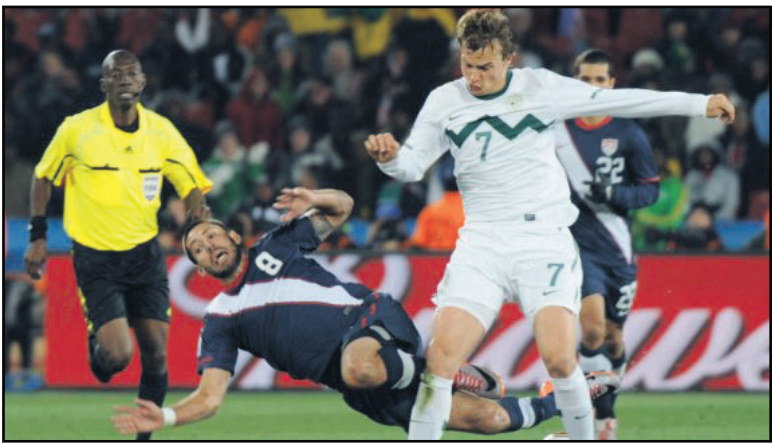
Remaining:  
23/06 Slovenia v England  
23/06 USA v Algeria

The Standings

|          | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Slovenia | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 4   |
| USA      | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 2   |
| England  | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2   |
| Algeria  | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1   |



England's result with Algeria has drawn plenty of criticism from many quarters back in Blighty.



The Americans and Slovenia played a pulsating 2-2 draw.

# Serbia blows open group

By Alex Milic

## Serbia v Germany

Serbia overcame the group favourites Germany in a thriller full of drama. Milan Jovanovic's 38th minute strike has put the Serbs back in contention after an opening defeat.

Radomir Antic made three changes from the first match and played with a lone striker and a libero. Nikola Zigic did excellent to hold the ball and create space for his teammates while his height advanaege was crucial in setting up the goal. Zigic was all over the pitch and caused major trouble for the German defenders.

Zdravko Kuzmanovic and Dejan Stankovic played well and didn't allow Bastian Schweinsteiger in the game as did Aleksandar Kolarov who was excellent in preventing Germany's key player and playmaker Mesut Ozil.

After Miroslav Klose was sent off for receiving his second yellow card, Serbia instantly took advantage. In the 38th minute Milos Krasic got past a player down the right and crossed into the box where his ball was met by the tower of Zigic who teed Milan Jovanovic who had the composure and scored an excellent volley past the German Keeper Nuer.

Lukas Podolski was constantly causing problems for Serbia. His pace was too much for Branislav Ivanovic, but Podolski failed to find the target on several occasions.

Germany were awarded a penalty after Nemanja Vidic handballed in the box rather eccentrically, a carbon copy of

Zdravko Kuzmanovic's handball against Ghana. It was Déjà vu for Serbia but this time Vladimir Stojkovic stopped the penalty kick. His excellent save from Podolski's kick was an inspiration for Serbia who would go and have control of the match and were rather unlucky to not kill of the game near the end.

Nikola Zigic and Milan Jovavnovic both hit the woodwork for Serbia while Germany's Sami Khedira found the frame of the goal.

## Analysis

Milan Jovavnovic and Milos Krasic were deadly on the wings for Serbia and caused havoc for fullbacks Philip Lahm and Badstuber who struggled to contain the two.

Mesut Ozil failed to get into the game as did Bastian Schweinsteiger who did more winging then playing. These two players are considered Germany's key players and Serbia did excellent to stop them and because of that, Germany failed to make a huge impact on the game

## Australia v Ghana

In an entertaining match Australia and Ghana shared the spoils, which now means Australia must beat Serbia and hope Ghana overcomes Germany.

Australia got off to the perfect start, after 11 minutes a Marco Bresciano free kick was tumbled by Ghana keeper Kingson into the path of Brett Holman who took the opportunity to full advantage and slotted the ball into the back of the net to give Australia the lead.

Harry Kewell started the match and was eager to do well but after 25 minutes

his World Cup was shattered following a handball right on the goal line which denied Ghana a goal. Kewell was sent off to the disbelief of all and Ghana had the chance to level the game.

Asamoah Gyan scored against Serbia from the spot and he did the same against the Socceroos. Mark Schwarzer was beaten and Ghana was back in the match.

The Socceroos battled throughout the 90 minutes and had chances to score but Ghana had more of the ball and created more thanks to the player advantage. Mark Schwarzer made some excellent save particularly against the Black Stars best player Kevin Prince Boateng who saw his shot saved superbly by Schwarzer.

Scott Chipperfield almost made an immediate impact when he was brought on with 10 minutes reamaining, his cross was met by Luke Wilkshire who failed to make it count. This was Australia's best chance in the second half. The Socceroos failed to get Scott Kennedy into the game and only had one corner.

Craig Moore showed some of his defensive abilities which he is known for and youngster Valeri played well.

The early sending off was a big blow for Australia who never seemed to get into the game after Kewell's departure.

Australia's remaining game is against Serbia and the Socceroos must win the match at all costs and hope results go their way while Ghana is now on top of the group with four points.

The Matches

Germany 4:0 Australia  
Serbia 0:1 Ghana  
Germany 0:1 Serbia  
Ghana 1:1 Australia

Remaining:  
23/06 Ghana v Germany  
23/06 Australia v Serbia

The Standings

|           | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Ghana     | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4   |
| Germany   | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 3   |
| Serbia    | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3   |
| Australia | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1   |



Serbia's midfielder Milan Jovanovic scores the opening goal past Germany's goalkeeper Manuel Neuer



Ghana's Gyan scored from the spot for the second match in succession.



# Dutch march on, Cameroon out

By Leroy Robinson

## Netherlands 2 Denmark 0

As expected, the Netherlands ran out winners in the first game in Group E, in Johannesburg. It wasn't easy against a resilient, combative Danish team who can consider themselves hard done by to lose the game. Though they didn't do enough to win, the Danes restricted the Dutch in the first half to wild long range efforts. They could have also taken the lead had Bendtner steered a free header on target from just outside the six yard box. Once again the first half of a game at the World Cup was troubled, not by Vuvuzelas, but inaccurate shooting, poor crossing and over hit free kicks.

The second wasn't much better. The first Dutch goal owed more to poor defending rather than skill. A cross from the left was missed by Daniel Agger and, when Poulsen tried to head the ball away, the left back headed it back towards goal, where it snuck in via Agger's back - and the post. There was no response from the Danes and though the Dutch dominated possession it wasn't until Eljero Elia entered the contest that the Dutch posed any sort of consistent attacking threat, his dribbling and speed down the Danish left causing problems. The Dutch sorely missed Arjen Robben, with Wesley Sneijder proving an inadequate and ineffective replacement. In the 86th minute Dirk Kuyt added a tap-in after Elia's shot rebounded off a post. It flattered the Oranje and the Dutch know that if they are to win the World Cup they need a fit Robben, and a better performance.

## Japan 1 Cameroon 0

This ruined the betting slip and was another African let-down. Japan won their

first ever World Cup game outside home soil with a rearguard toughness hitherto unseen in their warm-up games. Spurred on by some passionate Japanese support in Bloemfontein they played the role of underdog to perfection, soaking up the pressure and hitting Cameroon on the counter attack time and again. The lack of midfield creativity in the Cameroon side meant coach Paul Le Guen's tactics centred on getting the ball out wide to Samuel Eto'o on the wing. Why was the record scorer for his country playing wide on the right? No idea. He was ineffective and disinterested for long periods, meaning he wasn't bothering to make forward runs and didn't chase back when he lost the ball. Cameroon's main tactic was to get their fullbacks crossing into the penalty area for Webo but Japan coped, with Tulio outstanding. Their star man Keisuke Honda scored in the 39th minute by poking in a cross at the far post after it was missed by the defenders. Cameroon hit the bar late on but lacked a constant threat, especially with Eto'o out wide, and Japan celebrated a vital win. As for Cameroon, they play Denmark with the loser most certainly having one foot in the exit lounge.

## GROUP E ROUND-UP MATCH 2 Netherlands 1 Japan 0

A tight contest in Durban was settled by a blast outside the penalty area from Wesley Sneijder. Both teams were unchanged after opening round wins, meaning Robben still wasn't fit to play, or even to come on as a sub. During a first half which saw few shots on target, the nearest either team came to a goal was when full back Nagatomo rounded off a passing move with a long range effort that whistled a yard wide of Stekelenburg's post.


Throughout the first half Japan's defence subdued the slow build up play of the Dutch. However, at the start of the second they were undone. In the 53rd minute Sneijder pounced on a poor defensive header from Tulio, smashing a first time shot outside the area which may have swerved but was certainly misjudged by Seigo Narazaki, the 'keeper palming the ball into his net. On 72 minutes Eljero Elia came on for van der Vaart, playing on the left, but not to the same effect as in the previous game. Though behind the Japanese were content to stay behind the ball, letting the Dutch come onto them so they could counter attack. In what was largely a solid unspectacular performance by the Oranje, they came close late on when Afellay had his effort saved with only the keeper to beat. The nearest effort for Japan was an Okazaki effort which Stekelenburg watched go over the bar. They go into the final group game with Denmark knowing a draw will be enough to progress, but also knowing that if they wish to progress they need to have more of a goal-scoring plan than just sitting back and seeing what happens.


## Cameroon 1 Denmark 2


Geremi and Alex Song started for Cameroon in a game neither team could afford to lose in Pretoria. Cameroon, fresh from intense criticism of their coach and senior players by the fans and media alike, started out on the offensive. In what was an entertaining game Cameroon's sole strike came courtesy of Danish generosity. Whilst trying to pass the ball around the defence Christian Poulsen gifted it to Webo, who squared it for Eto'o to slide by Sorensen inside the penalty area after 10 minutes.


| The Matches  |
|--|
| Netherlands 2:0 Denmark<br>Japan 1:0 Cameroon<br>Netherlands 1:0 Japan<br>Cameroon 1:2 Denmark |
| Remaining:<br>24/06 Denmark v Japan<br>24/06 Cameroon v Netherlands                            |

| The Standings |   |   |   |   |   |   |     |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
|               | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
| Netherlands   | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 6   |
| Japan         | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3   |
| Denmark       | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3   |
| Cameroon      | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0   |











Holland's Wesley Sneider broke Japanese hearts and steered the Oranje Army through to the last 16.

Cameroon was on top and looking set to add a second when on 33 minutes Denmark scored out of nothing. A 50-yard cross field ball from centre back Kjaer to right winger Rommedahl was slid into the path of Bendtner who poked it home from inside the six-yard box. Afterwards, Denmark tried to gift Cameroon a second goal with several passing errors at the back, but, with Sorensen stranded and two players on the line, Eto'o hit a post. Rommedahl wrapped up the win on the counter attack, chesting Bendtner's pass

on the right in his stride before cutting inside Jean Makoun, to curl a left foot shot into the bottom corner in the 61st minutes. Both teams had several chances to score but were thwarted by the keepers, Sorensen especially pulling off a super one-handed save low to his right from Emana to preserve the win. Denmark needs to beat Japan to qualify, and on this performance they have the craft to unlock a stubborn Japanese defence.

# All Whites create stoppage time history

By Adam North

Almost all of the first round of games in this years World Cup were lacklustre and uninspiring, with teams seeming to fear losing more than actually wanting to win. And this was certainly the case in World Cup Group F.

## Italy 1 Paraguay 1

Italy began the defence of their title against a Paraguay side that has beaten both Brazil and Argentina in qualification for the tournament. Usually Italy are slow starters at tournaments, and this was more proof of that, as the teams played out a one-one draw.

In fairness Italy were actually lucky to get the draw at all. Before a ball was kicked I feared that the Italians lacked creativity up front, and that was exactly what was wrong for them here. The likes of Totti are gone, at least for now, and Lippi seems happy to scrape wins however they can. The Italians only managed to score via a mistake from the Paraguayan goalkeeper, and in truth they created little over the whole ninety minutes.

Paraguay were the better team, but in truth even they were fairly poor.

They grabbed their goal from a free-kick, where their defender Alcaraz out-jumped Italy captain Cannavaro to head into the net. Buoyed by the goal, for a spell Paraguay looked to be searching for another goal, before ultimately they settled on their lead.

At no point did Italy really look like breaking the South Americans down, but they were gifted a goal when the Paraguayan keeper missed a cross which De Rossi grateful struck into the net to even the score.

Worrying for the Italians their goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon left with a back injury which could keep him out of their remaining group games.

## New Zealand 1 Slovakia 1

A stoppage time equaliser from defender Winston Reid saw New Zealand claim the first World Cup point in their history with a 1-1 draw against Slovakia.

I did believe that the All-Whites would lose all three games in the group, and it looked like that would happen after Vittek's goal put them behind. But in truth New Zealand had the better opportunities over the course of the game, and they deserved their equaliser.

The whole game was fairly scappy, and a draw was probably the right result, but both Paraguay and Italy will not be worried about facig these two teams.

Overall the two games were, like much of the World Cup so far, dull and without major incident. I still think that the Italians will top the group, and I still think that they will struggle to go much further than that. It's true that Italy are slow starters, meaning a draw against a solid Paraguay side does not spell the end of their reign as World Champions, yet their problems remain no matter how well they start playing, as they have little to no creative spark, their defence looks worrying shaky, and they have no striker who can score them the goals that will win them the trophy. Furthermore, their goalkeeper, arguably the best goalkeeper in the world Buffon, looks set to miss the rest of the tournament with a back injury.

I still think that Paraguay will go through with the Azzuri, as they should be able to beat both Slovakia and New Zealand given their relative performances during the first round of games.

| The Matches  |
|--|
| Italy 1:1 Paraguay<br>New Zealand 1:1 Slovakia   |
| Remaining:<br>20/06 Slovakia v Paraguay<br>20/06 Italy v New Zealand<br>24/06 Slovakia v Italy<br>24/06 Paraguay v New Zealand |

| The Standings |   |   |   |   |   |   |     |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
|               | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
| Paraguay      | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1   |
| Italy         | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1   |
| New Zealand   | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1   |
| Slovakia      | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1   |





New Zealand scored a stoppage time equaliser to deny Slovakia all three points.



# Group of Death warms up

By Mike Salter

By the time you read this, Brazil will have played their second match in Group G, against the Ivory Coast. You will therefore have a clearer idea than I of how this group is eventually going to pan out, but below is a review of the action so far in what was meant to be this World Cup's "Group of Death"... although there now appear to be several of these.

## Portugal 0-0 Ivory Coast

It was dull stuff, for a long time. Like many of the teams in this first round of matches, the two "second favourites" of the group appeared to be feeling each other out for much of the game, and few chances were created in the first half. Cristiano Ronaldo was kept fairly quiet, with the exception of one brisk turn and shot which came back off the post.

Instead, it was the lithe, two-footed Ivorian striker Gervinho who provided the best moments of the opening period, creating space for his striking partners Salomon Kalou and Aruna Dindane, and basically making a fine nuisance of himself. Brazil and North Korea will have watched his bright performance with interest, and some trepidation.

The Ivorians pressed on in the second half and looked the more

likely winners, but the question on everyone's lips was...will we see Didier Drogba? Eventually we did, and although the big man looked understandably rusty, failing to make the most of a decent chance near the close, he showed enough to suggest that he will play a more prominent role as the tournament continues. Portugal, for their part, could only manage a headed half-chance to Liedson and a wasted 25-yard free kick from Ronaldo. Sven-Goran Eriksson would have been the happier of the two coaches after this game.

## Brazil 2-1 North Korea

Everyone expected the Brazilians to win, but few expected it to be such a difficult task. The North Korean organisation was extremely impressive, with the backline defiant in the face of Brazil's swift movement and inter-passing, and dominant in the air: Ri Kwang-chon was a tower of strength, and Luis Fabiano found himself starved of possession and space throughout. At the other end, Brazil could not afford to be complacent, with Hong Yong-jo and the teary Jong Tae-se posing the occasional problem.

Ultimately it took one of the best goals of the tournament, an absolute screamer from the right-back Maicon, to break the deadlock. Narrow-angled goals are something of a Brazilian specialty at the World

Cup; one of the finest in the competition's history was scored by the long-forgotten forward Amarildo against Czechoslovakia in the 1962 final.

Things began to open up subsequently, and Brazil scored another through Elano after an incisive move. In fact, Dunga's men played very well, and it was a real tribute to the tenacity and ability of the Koreans that the score was kept so respectable: Ji Yun-nam even surprised the tournament favourites with a goal out of nowhere a minute from the end of normal time. This North Korean side will be no pushover for Portugal or the Ivory Coast.

## The future

It still looks like being a straight chase for second between the Portuguese and the Ivorians, although the smart money must be on North Korea picking up a point somewhere along the way. Brazil already looked menacing in their opener although they found it hard to break down a determined opposition, and neither the Portuguese nor the Ivorian defence looks particularly formidable.

## The Matches

Côte d'Ivoire 0:0 Portugal  
Brazil 2:1 Korea DPR

Remaining:  
20/06 Brazil v Côte d'Ivoire  
21/06 Portugal v Korea DPR  
25/06 Portugal v Brazil  
25/06 Korea DPR v Côte d'Ivoire



## The Standings

|               | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Brazil        | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3   |
| Côte d'Ivoire | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1   |
| Portugal      | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1   |
| Korea DPR     | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0   |



Brazil's goalkeeper Julio Cesar (R) deflects a shot during the match against North Korea on June 15, 2010 at Ellis Park stadium in Johannesburg. Brazil won 2-1.

# Swiss stun favourites Spain in opener

By Russ Gibbs

By the time you read this the unthinkable may have occurred. All-conquering Spain, David Villa, Fernando Torres, Andres Iniesta et al could be out of the 2010 FIFA World Cup. Victory against Honduras is a pre-requisite for the reigning European Champions and World Cup favourites if they are to have any hopes of making into the last sixteen of the tournament.

And all because a goal from striker Gelson Fernandes gave Switzerland a shock 1-0 victory over Spain in Durban the first round of matches in Group H. The goal, a messy affair poked over the goal-line by Fernandes after a series of mistakes in the Spanish penalty area, was totally against the run of play in a match in which the Spanish, with their intricate passing had largely dominated.

The loss was only Spain's second defeat in an astonishing 49 matches and yet could prove to be immensely costly as Vicente Del Bosque and his squad faces a testing match against Honduras and then takes on a sprightly Chile, who may have already qualified, knowing that nothing less than victory in both matches will assure them of a place in the knock-out phase.

Despite dominating possession and creating several presentable half-chances against the Swiss the closest Spain came to scoring was when Xabi Alonso smashed the crossbar with an amazing strike from just outside the penalty area. Incredibly, Switzerland could have dou-

bled their lead when Bayer Leverkusen striker Eren Derdiyok turned inside his marker but saw his well-struck effort come back off the post with Real Madrid goalkeeper Iker Casillas well beaten.

The Swiss held on for victory and know that a decent showing against Chile followed by the fixture with Honduras, which on this display they will be confident of winning, could see them through the group stage for the second World Cup in a row. Switzerland infamously were knocked out of the 2006 World Cup in Germany without conceding a goal, beaten by Ukraine in a penalty shoot-out in the Second Round, presenting a steely defensive shield and, while they rode their luck at times against the Spanish, look to have developed a similar style of play for the 2010 version of the competition. Their next match against Chile, which precedes the Spain versus Honduras encounter, will tell us much about whether the 1-0 triumph was more down to luck than tactical planning.

Chile meanwhile recorded their first World Cup victory for 48 years with a 1-0 win over Honduras in Nelspruit. The goal, scored by Jean Beausejour, was a scrappy affair with a cross cleared by a Honduran defender ricocheting off Beausejour and into the net for a bizarre goal. But Marcelo Bielsa's team were well worth the advantage having been the better side for most of the match prior to their 34th minute breakthrough.

'La Roja' really should have killed off the match as a contest during the second half when firstly reported Real Madrid target Alexis Sanchez fired wide of goal



The Swiss surprised tournament favourite Spain with an unexpected 1-0 win.

when well-placed before Waldo Ponce headed straight at Honduran goalkeeper Noel Valladares when it seemed easier to score. Valladares enjoyed an exceptional match in the Honduras goal saving his team on numerous occasions and was unfortunate to be on the losing side. Life will not get any easier for the shot-stopper either with Spain next up ensuring he's likely to have a busy World Cup.

The big question remains though. Can Spain recover from their Swiss shocker and show the World the style of football that has enchanted followers over the past four years or have they peaked too soon? The answer to that conundrum could be evident by the time you read these words.



## The Matches

Honduras 0:1 Chile  
Spain 0:1 Switzerland

Remaining:  
21/06 Chile v Switzerland  
21/06 Spain v Honduras  
25/06 Chile v Spain  
25/06 Switzerland v Honduras



## The Standings

|             | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Chile       | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3   |
| Switzerland | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3   |
| Honduras    | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0   |
| Spain       | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0   |



Chile's players celebrate after it secured a first World Cup win in 48 years by edging Honduras 1-0 through a late first-half goal from striker Jean Beausejour.





Mexico 1970

With Roy Hay

# The best World Cup ever?

Each World Cup has its special moments, even the most dire tournaments, but for sustained excitement and quality it is hard to go past the Mexican tournament of 1970.

After the stodginess and brutality of 1966 in England, the Mexican adventure was illuminated by great games and great teams, especially the eventual winner, Brazil, with Pele, Tostao, Gerson, Rivelino, Carlos Alberto and Jairzinho, who scored in every game the Selecao played. The matches were often played in the heat of the Mexican day to suit a television audience seeing the matches in full colour for the first time.

Seventy countries embarked on qualification for the World Cup in 1970. Australia's gallant effort came undone at the hands of Israel after a tortuous campaign which took it to South Korea and Mozambique. The tournament was held against the backdrop of the so-called 'soccer war' between El Salvador and Honduras in which over 2,000 people died.

Sixteen teams reached the final tournament, so the quality of the finalists was high and the hosts finished second in Group A behind the Soviet Union. Italy made its usual slow start but topped group B with a win and two draws, while Uruguay edged out Sweden on goal difference and Israel's two draws was not enough to qualify. Brazil and England qualified from Group C, with their encounter settled by a brilliant goal from Jairzinho. The highlight, which is still replayed, was Gordon Banks magnificent save from a Pele header after the keeper had appeared to be stranded on his opposite post before the cross came in. West Germany ran away with Group D, with Peru in second place.

In the quarter-finals Uruguay beat the Soviet Union in extra-time by a goal from Esparrago, which had more than a hint of controversy, with the Russians protesting officially that the ball had been over the side-line before being crossed. Italy hit its straps with a four-one win



over the hosts. Mexico scored first, but an own goal by their skipper Pena let the Italians back in and Gigi Riva scored twice on either side of one by Gianni Rivera. Brazil accounted for Peru in a four-two win. Tostao got a double, Rivelino fired in a fierce shot and Jairzinho kept up his scoring record. For Peru, Teofilo

Cubillas and Gallardo were on target. The final match in the quarters was another classic between West Germany and England, who had met in the final four years before. This time the Germans came out on top, despite England going to a two-nil lead through Alan Mullery and Martin Peters. Gordon Banks was

ill and replaced by Peter Bonetti, but it was the tactical error of Alf Ramsey who removed Bobby Charlton, rather than the exhausted Terry Cooper, just after Franz Beckenbauer scored for Germany in the 69th minute that may have been more critical. The Germans got on terms with a headed goal by veteran Uwe Seeler with

eight minutes left and won the match in extra-time through the inevitable Gerd 'Der Bomber' Muller.

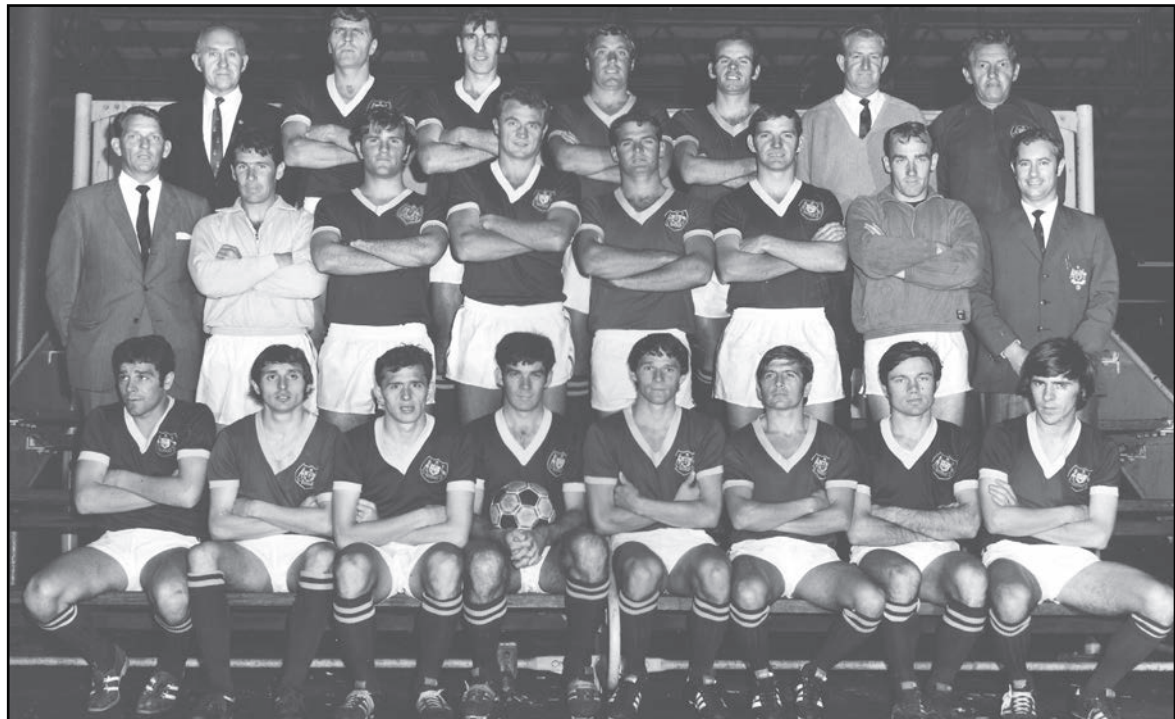
Brazil defeated Uruguay in its semi-final despite going a goal down to Clodoaldo in 19 minutes. Clodoaldo, Jairzinho and Rivelino got the Brazilian replies. The Italy-Germany match was worthy of a final and it ended in a four-three win for the Italians after extra time. Roberto Boninsenga gave Italy a dream start after only seven minutes and despite constant German pressure and Italian counter-attacks that goal seemed to have determined the outcome until defender Karl-Heinz Schnellinger equalised for Germany in the 90th minute. The tiring teams went into extra time and the match opened up dramatically after Muller put Germany ahead. Burgnich equalised, Riva put Italy in front, Muller scored again. A minute later Rivera got the winner, but there could have been more in the final nine minutes.

A single goal from Overath in the third place play-off saw Germany overcome Uruguay. So to the final between Brazil and Italy. It was another feast of football. Pele put Brazil on its way in 18 minutes with a powerful header from a Rivelino cross but Boninsenga equalised in 37, after a suicidal backheel by Clodoaldo. It was well into the second half when Gerson was allowed to run through from midfield to put Brazil ahead again in 66 minutes. Then Jairzinho got his goal to complete his remarkable tally and there was just time for skipper Carlos Alberto to overlap on the right in the 87th minute to crash home the fourth goal (from a precise lay-off by Pele) for the magnificent Brazilians. Mario Zagallo's team took home the Jules Rimet trophy for keeps, having won it three times. It was later lost or stolen.

Gerd Muller finished with ten goals and Jairzinho with seven. There were three goals scored on average in each game. Pele and Uwe Seeler were playing in their fourth World Cups and both scored. Mexico 1970 set a standard that has never been reached since.



Jairzinho (centre) bursts between Facchetti and Burgnich of Italy, watched by Pele in the 1970 World Cup final. Source: Brian Glanville, The Story of the World Cup.



The 1969 Socceroos who narrowly failed to make it to the party in Mexico. Back row, left to right: Les Bordacs (manager), Alan Marnoch, John Watkiss, Stan Ackerley, George Keith, Tom Patrick (official), Joe Vlasits (coach). Middle row: Dr Brian Corrigan (team physician), Ron Corry, Gary Manuel, David Zeman, Don Sandell, Ray Baartz, Jim Fraser, Brian Le Fevre (ASF Secretary). Front row: John Perin, Billy Vojtek, Attila Abonyi, Johnny Warren, Willie Rutherford, Danny Walsh, Joe Alagic, Tommy McColl. Photo: Laurie Schwab collection, Deakin University Library.

Left: Gerd Muller volleys the winner for West Germany against England in the quarter-finals in Mexico. Brian Labone (5), Peter Bonetti and Bobby Moore are the English defenders. Source: Martin Tyler, The Story of Football.





# TSIGAN'S TSIGAR

With Mike Lilikakis

## Tsigan Rolls One Up from the South Coast!

Well it's a grand ol' team to play for, and its a grand ol' team to see....

I saw Melissa Barbieri last week on SBS dance as if she was standing on hot coals, i s'pose she had every right to do so. She's a good lookin' sort, if you like goalkeepers. I mean, if u choose to go for a preference vote in Keneally, ur just asking for trouble from 3 different accents, let alone continents.

Bring it on:

Are you for Villa Real?

The team: Valdir Peres, Leandro, Oscar (C), Luisinho and Júnior; Toninho Cerezo, Falcão, Sócrates and Zico; Serginho and Éder.

Reserves: Paulo Sérgio (G), Carlos (G), Edevaldo, Juninho, Edinho, Pedrinho, Batista, Paulo Isidoro, Renato, Roberto Dinamite and Dirceu. Coach: Telê Santana.

The matches:

Brazil 2 - 1 Soviet Union  
Brazil 4 - 1 Scotland  
Brazil 4 - 0 New Zealand  
Brazil 3 - 1 Argentina  
Brazil 2 - 3 Italy

La Preparacion:

The Brazilian team of 1982 usually appears in surveys as one of the best Brazilian teams of all time. The team had a combination of talented players and an offensive coach.

Telê Santana assumed the command of the Brazilian team in 1980. His philosophy was that football should be a show, both for those playing and for those watching the matches. You gotta give the man 200 grand on a deal or no deal just for the philosophy. He was radically against violence. Which I would suppose would stand to reason considering there were so many Nazi's and JE-SUITS in Brazil at the time....ahem.

For Telê, his teams should always be seeking to score goals. And he had some players to help him. ZICO is synonymous with the kati kati flair let alone the one with highest number of matches for Brazil and most goals scored. Falcão had led his team Internacional to the tri-championship in Brazil, and became known as "King of Rome", for having led the Roma, from Italy, to the scudetto. Sócrates, a fed inkum ridgie didge physician with name of philosopher, combined multi uber talent and favre intelligence. Toninho Cerezo, besides skillful, was said to have an extra pair of lungs. Please give me a pair to go along with my gonads. The team also had to BOOT the still the powerful shots of left-forward Éder, and the abilities of Júnior coupled with the experience of Oscar.

BY NOW YOU SHOULD BE SALIVATING. THE NAME'S ALONE SHOULD HAVE GIVEN YOU A HARD ON.

There were a few weak links. The goalkeeper, Valdir Peres, didn't inspire much confidence even among fans of his team, São Paulo. Let's face it. Anyone with a combover should NEVER EVER FOREVER be in goals. for OBVIOUS reasons. If you don't know those reasons, you are a Gnut.

The center-forward, Serginho, was tamed by Telê Santana; Serginho was more a kind of bad boy, used to playing tricks with the nerves of the adversaries to create goals opportunities; in the team of Telê, this kind of attitude was prohibited; Serginho, one of the best strikers of his time, lost much of his potential. The dude would've been suited to the 2000 millennia bar none or Bar Kochba.



The favourite of Telê for the position was Careca, who would play later in the cups of 1986 and 1990; Careca suffered a serious injury already in Spain, and had to be substituted by Roberto Dinamite, who had been Brazil's striker in the 1978 Cup; rumours of the epoch said that Roberto's wife had links with black magic, and had arranged for Careca's contusion. Wouldn't surprise me. Every freaky striker with a freaky Portugese name needs a little bit of Frank Sinatra by their bedside.

Before the Cup, there was some discussion in Brazil whether the four cracks (non smokeable-non toxic) should play together, as they were all offensive. Matters were complicated by the fact that Cerezo could not play the first match (he had been expelled in a previous official match for shagging Vince McMahon's daughter with Randy Macho Man Savage in a foursome with an unnamed goat)); his substitute, Paulo Isidoro, was doing a good job in occupying the right-forward position. Now, if you're still comprehending , and not put off by the goat....ahem...by putting all four together, there would be no one occupying that central Johnny Holmes position. (Seriously, that should do ur head or ribs in. Thank you...boom boom, goodenacht.)

Telê stuck to his philosophy, whatever it was, and with his name, why argue...and Brazil would play as offensive as possible. In 1981, after winning all matches of the qualifyings, Brazil did a European tour, and PUMPED England, France and Germany at their respective home grounds...not that that that that sorry hiccups..was an issue in those days; the team would not lose any matches until the Cup kicked off; Brazil arrived to Spain as the favourite to eat, suck, lick and regurgitate any and all....ah the good all days.

The matches

Brazil won the first match, 2 -1 against Soviet Union; Ie: CCCP. The Soviets didn't shoot much, but in one of the few times, Valdir Peres failed and let the ball in. Sócrates scored a sarma at 28' in dur second half, und Éder at the 43'. The team played well, but the victory had not been easy. But hey, credit is due...The Soviets put a monkey into space. The Brazilians trained them to play football. Now, If THAT doesn't get me shot...please...NOTHING WILL.

For the second match, as planned, Paulo Isidoro left and Toninho Cerezo entered. Brazil won Scotland by 4 -1, and indeed played well; Yeah...IN DEED. Gimme the KESH! Zico, Oscar, Éder and Falcão scored. Fans and media approved the scheme, and Paulo Isidoro was already forgotten. Who? yeah...exactly.

Next, a very easy match against New Zea-

land. The Kiwis (God bless 'em, they were there before the Aussies)...were more concerned in soliciting autographs than beating Brazil. Zico scored twice, Falcão once and Serginho, at last, scored a goal. Fans and media became euphoric. I did too. I was only 10. My sister was in hospitsl having her appendix out at the time. I refused to visit her. I was too busy curling the ball around an imaginary wall and practicing scissor kicks.

Then, Brazil would face the most traditional rival, Argentina. The Argentinians were the title holders, and most of the champions of 1978 were in Spain, albeit without the aid of COKE..YES COKE! THEY WER DRUGGIES!...ahem... Moreover, they had brought to Spain a young player who promised to shake the world of football, called Maradona. The Argentinians had already lost to Italy, but, for the Brazilians: Argentina was the only rival which could prevent them in THEORY from reaching the final.

The match was easier than anticipated. Zico scored a cracker jacker early in the first half. Brazil thus dominated the whole game, and wild child Serginho and then Júnior scored...boom bang...bing... 3 - 0. Argentina scored theirs at the last minute. Maradona was sent off for violent play with a mule kick to the midriff of Junior...what a prick...spoilt little falafel.

Now, the entire world was euphoric with the Brazilian team. Who could possibly stop them? The adversaries could mark Zico and Sócrates, but then Falcão and Éder would score. Cerezo had a powerful long distance shot, and Júnior could appear by surprise at any time. The team had an unbelievable and serenely impressive fitness shape. The coach, Telê, made it clear that Brazil should keep their offensive scheme, and emulate France in the Fontaine days...with perhaps a chance to set a benchmark in goals scored for.

On July 5th 1982, the Brazilian team entered Sarrià Stadium, in Barcelona, thinking they should fullfil a formality: a win against a corrupt and underrachieving/making up the numbers Italy. Actually, even if the match finished tied, Brazil would move ahead, as the system was a freakout, rather than a knockout. The adversary in the semi-finals would be the European equivalent of Brazil...Poland, and the main player, Boniek; who at the time was the equivalent of Platini had been expelled and wouldn't play the next match; the path to the final was paved.

The Italians had had three ties in the three matches of the first stage (against Poland, Cameroon and Peru), and only qualified to the next stage because they had scored two

goals, one more than Cameroon. Ok, they had been lucky to win Argentina, but apparently lightning never strikes twice the same place. Italy had hosted the Eurocup 1980, and finished fourth. Italy finished the qualifiers for the World Cup in second place, after the former republic known as Yugoslavia, or JAT. It seemed very unlikely, improbable...nay nay horsie...impossible that they could beat Brazil.

Italy had scored only four goals in four matches (Brazil had scored a million). Il Duce at the time ahem...the Italian striker was, supposedly, Paolo Rossi; Rossi had been involved in a lottery scandal, and spent two years off football fields before the cup and had not scored any goals until the match against Brazil. Brazilians were not much concerned with Rossi.

Instead, Brazil were a bit worried about Gentile. He was the ANTONYM OF HIS NAME. He marked Maradona, and set a new record of having committed 23 fowls bok bok bokek on the same player during a single match. Probably Gentile would try to do the same with Zico, but, why care? Brazil would still have Falcão, Sócrates, Éder,...

It didn't take long after the match started for reality to crash on Brazilian heads. At 5', the Brazilian defense gets confused, Paolo Rossi shoots from outside the area, and scores the first Italian goal. To save that shot would be difficult for any good goalkeeper, but it was impossible for Valdir Peres who was too busy spraying his hair with V05. Brazil had taken few goals along the Cup, but truth is that the adversaries had not shot many times; Brazil was so proud of their offensive power, they would realize (too late) that a good goalkeeper is fundamental.

Seven minutes later, Zico passes to Sócrates, who scores; things seemed to be going back to normality.

However, at 25', the ball is crossed into the area. Valdir Peres was not a specialist in high balls either. Paolo Rossi doesn't even have to jump to head the ball into the goal and put Italy ahead again. Until the end of first half, Brazilians had enough time to realize that the match was very far from being easy; rumours go that Cerezo and Leandro had nervous breakdowns during the time out. Oh dear. A wee bit late to call a shrink.

The game continued tough in the second half. The Italians had an exceptional defensive scheme; possibly, a wild Serginho would be more efficient now than a tamed one. Besides, the Italians were very swift in counter attacks, and any shot seemed dangerous for Valdir Peres, the maestro of

shave yer head kojak!

Then, at 63', when despair was already building, the relief: Falcão scored a whopper, shimmyeng two then three and kracked the ball like a cannon beating geriatric Italian goalkeeper Dino Zoff. The usually elegant Falcão celebrated the goal like a crazy 16 year old who just shagged his first 60 year old village prostitute.

Now, what was the best thing to do? The match was tied, the time was short. A draw was good enough for Brazil. Now it was the Italians who should face despair. Brazil had excellent players to reinforce the defense. Edinho, for example, was so good that he would be captain of the team in 1986; or Batista, who had stopped Maradona in the Argentina match. If they had substituted Serginho or Éder, the Italian's job would be much more difficult.

But, the Brazilian coach was Telê Santana. He did not substitute anyone, and he did not even tell anyone to retreat. The Brazilian team continued with the same plan: being offensive and win the match. At 90', Paolo Rossi scored his third goal in the match.

Italy won by 3-2. Brazil returned home. Lets leave it there before I discover more ridiculous puns.

It was a hell of a good team. It should not be so surprising that they would win any other team, including Brazil. Zoff was aged fourty, and was present when Italy needed. Cabrini, Tardelli, Antognoni, Graziani, Conti are all good individually, much more as a group. Paolo Rossi did what is expected from a striker: score goals when opportunities arise.

Italy defeated an under strength Poland by 2-0 in the semi-finals, with a double by Paolo Rossi... Italy then went on the gravy train with Pink Floyd and shallacked a baked beaned West Germany in the final by 3 -1 (first goal by Rossi) and deservedly became the champion of the 1982 World Cup.

After the match, Telê embraced each and every player, as they left the field. Telê took all responsibility for the defeat. He quit the National team after the 1982 Cup; the Brazilian Federation tried other coaches, but Telê, by popular request, returned to command the team in the 1986 Cup.

Along with Telê, some players who had planned to retire after the championship in 1982 decided to give another try in 1986: Zico, Falcão, Júnior, Sócrates and others. If any player was stigmatized for the loss, this was Toninho Cerezo. He was responsible for the first Rossi's goal; he broke down during the match. Thanks to his excellent physical conditions, he continued playing until early 1990s (he helped São Paulo FC become world champion in Tokyo), but he was not called to the 1986 team.

Brazilian fans and journalists recognize that this team was excellent. What happened to Brazil in 1982 was similar to what had happened to Holland in 1974 and Hungary in 1954: the best team had not won.

So in order for you football mad muppets to appreciate what the game is all about... remember that before digital and HD, there was REAL quality express backheels, one touch stuff which led to goals before you had time to open up a packet of Kettle Crisps.

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# BOO'S WORLD

With Mark Boric



This column is coming to you "off the cuff" (pretty much like every other week) during the Australia v Ghana game. Craig Foster is on my telly, crapping on as usual. He had a big week, unable to contain his post-Germany game anger, and not waiting for the World Cup Show to launch his tirade against Pim by getting stuck in early whilst reading the sport section on SBS World News. It was passionate stuff, but maybe a lot of his anger stemmed from the fact that he was fairly late in jumping aboard the anti-Pim bandwagon. Fozz is very nervous, and reckons he could almost be physically sick for the first time. Which reminds me of Jackie Moon in Semi-Pro.

I'm not convinced Homer Simpson would know who Cristiano Ronaldo is. Just putting it out there for contemplation. I suppose most ads are unrealistic, but if Beckham couldn't get a guest spot on The Simpsons because the producers thought he lacked profile, Ronaldo wouldn't stand a chance.

It's David Zdrilic, Ned Zelic and Zjelko Kalac on the panel of analysts tonight. No Francis Awaritefe, which means Paul Dempsey has no one to look at when he wants to ask a question about Ghana. His racial profiling earlier in the week was a

classic.

This kid Aiden who won a trip to South Africa through some McDonald's story writing competition. He didn't get a sympathy decision for being a little bit "special" did he? He changed teams because the opposition were short, and scored a few against his regular team-mates. He reckons it was a fair game, but then again history is written by the winners.

Harry's back. So is Bresc. Less enthusiastic about Ranga Carney getting a start. And now two passes to Carney go by him and straight into touch, one from Moore missing by ten yards. Hope he didn't have a pre-game drink to steady his nerves.

Dodgy keeper spills the Bresciano's free kick and Bret Holman, who will always be LOLman to me, puts away the rebound. 1-0 AUSTRALIA! Almost gave the keeper a chance, but it's in.

Emerton and Wilkshe don't deal with Ayew in the corner of the box, his pull back leads to a shot which strikes Harry Kewell on the arm on the goal line. From the referee's instant reaction it is obvious he will award the penalty and issue a red card. Harry's not happy and the ref has usurped Mike Cockerill as his most hated person this week, but he is off.

Addy gets booked for a shocking tackle on Bresciano. Only booked. Even Kevin Muscat is appalled. The commentary team bemoan the lack of red card, but no one actually comes out and says FIFA are looking after the African teams in this World Cup.

Halftime and the analysts are talking over each other, they are so angry. With the ref though, not Pim anymore. Kevin Muscat yawns as they cut back to him and David Basheer before the second half, who don't seem to be ready for the cross. Good old SBS.

Australia regain respect with their performance in this game. Which underlines how much we were led to the slaughter by Verbeek in the opener. Wilkshe hits the keeper with a great chance one-on-one with the keeper, big Kennedy drilling a volley from the rebound straight into the ground, the ball looping up to be easily cleared. It's not going to happen, a draw will have to do.

Time for some sleep. The pundits won't say anything now, and proud but dissatisfied Fozz isn't as good value as angry Fozz.



# KRNCVIC'S CRUNCHLINES

With Eddie Krncevic

Australian soccer legend, Eddie Krncevic represented the Socceroos 35 times and scored 17 goals. He played professionally in Europe for Dinamo Zagreb (Croatia), MSV Duisberg (Germany), Mulhouse (France) and Anderlecht, FC Liege, Aalst and Charleroi in Belgium.

**The Socceroos have restored Aussie pride back to its rightful place again after a gallant 1-1 draw with Ghana in their second World Cup group match. Unfortunately, it wasn't the most desired result we could have hoped for, but under the circumstances at least the performance was one worthy of the privilege of wearing the Green and Gold shirt.**

For the second match in a row the Socceroos were undone by a harsh red card, but it is hard in this instance to argue how it could not have been awarded. I'm still trying to figure out however, what Harry Kewell was doing on the goal-line when he was meant to be the team's striker and spearheading the attack at the other end of the park.

Nevertheless, what's done is done, and now the Socceroos must prepare themselves for a monumental battle against Serbia. Mathematically speaking all is still possible, even though the task seems beyond probability. Stranger things have happened in football, so the boys must approach the match with the belief that for the first time in the tournament it is our turn for the football gods of fortune to finally shine on the Socceroos.

In my opinion, if the Socceroos play with the same grit, endeavour and commitment shown against Ghana, who's to say they can't get a favourable result.

It's just a pity that the goal difference conceded against Germany may well prove to be a mountain too high to climb.

An early goal could provide the impetus they need, although with the two spots to qualify for the round of 16 still up for grabs, there's no doubt it will be a tense final ninety minutes for all concerned.

As we indulge ourselves in our third World Cup finals appearance, the most concerning statistic working against the Aussies is that we have still only ever won one game at this level, which of course was that heart-stopper against Japan back in 2006.

Not only do they have to win handsomely to even the balance in the goal difference ledger, but they must also rely on Ghana doing the unthinkable and inflicting a heavy defeat over Germany.

Somehow, I think it just may be a touch beyond us, but there's no point throwing in the towel just yet, especially when there is still a glimmer of hope.

All in all the horror show that was our first match has caused us major problems for the rest of the campaign.

It appears to me that in this tournament nothing has really gone right for Australia. From injury concerns in the lead up, to howls of discontent of the coach's decision making regarding players and tactics, to unfortunate red cards, to heavy defeats, to heavy criticism from every angle.

Whilst I understand that this barrage of expert feedback is ultimately because of concern for the well being of the national team, in some instances the hysteria of the over the top commentary has been far from necessary.

If anything, at times it has made us look like a nation of imbeciles, akin to some backwater 3rd world territory whose reactions a far from being constructive or thoughtful in their insights.

In the wash up from Australia's first game against Germany, Craig Foster's comments on SBS calling on the sacking of Pim Verbeek mid-tournament was far from appropriate or rational.

It is all well and good to provide expert analysis from the commentary box, but sometimes it can be so far-fetched that it does more harm to the

game than good.

There's no denying that the wheels well and truly fell off for the Socceroos that first game. But that is football sometimes. It can happen and it does happen. Unfortunately for the Socceroos, everything that could have gone wrong basically did and we got the taste of a worst case scenario first hand.

We must accept that we are not by any stretch of the imagination what one could call world beaters. No matter how much we dreamed the dream, we have to be realistic with who we are. Sure, the performance against Germany was far from acceptable, but I doubt if that was anyone's intention to be on the end of a hiding next to nothing.

People have to stop believing the hype that is rammed down our throats by all the false advertising, endless player interviews, and PR marketing machine propaganda that is bestowed on us at every opportunity.

This is football. It's a game. It can go either way depending on the day and a couple of dodgy refereeing decisions. That's why we watch it and follow it. The Socceroos know what they have to do and the equation is clear.

**Lynch, you've got to be kidding**

In last week's Germany versus Australia preview in The Sunday Age, soccer writer Michael Lynch referred to the Socceroo squad of 1974 as a 'collection of motley Aussie adventurers, migrants and refugees who had taken their adopted country into the World Cup finals for the first time'. That is a total insult to some of the greatest players to ever represent Australia.

Players of the calibre of Col Curran, Manfred Schaefer, John Warren, Adrian Alston, Jimmy Rooney, Jimmy Mackay, Atti Abonyi, Branko Buljevic and Doug Utjesenovic played their heart out for Australia, and in my opinion were far more technically skilled than the current crop of Socceroos.

Additionally, the Germans with legends of football like Franz Beckenbauer, Paul Breitner, Uli Hoeness, Gerd Muller, Wolfgang Overath and Sepp Maier represented a squad that would easily account for the current German team.

I think it's about time Michael Lynch stopped making such sweeping statements about world football, particularly if one can assume that he never actually saw any of these great Australian players in action.

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# KAT'S CORNER

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World Cup fever? Is it ever! I feel like a zombie and that I've constantly got jet-lag, but I haven't even been anywhere past my lounge room. I'm not functioning normally, and with three games per night it has certainly taken its toll on my body. I need sleep, but its World Cup time and I'm lovin' it! I wouldn't have it any other way, so keep bringing it on!

Having watched our beloved Socceroos in the clash against Ghana in the early hours of yesterday morning, I was confident we could win this game especially with the changes in the line-up bringing in Mark Bresciano and Harry Kewell. I still can't understand Pim Verbeek's thinking of not selecting your best players and opting to play Richard Garcia as the lone striker against Germany. In the game with Ghana we made a good start with players showing a hunger

that was severely lacking in recent games. They were first to the ball, there was urgency which was complimented by good movement, but another red card killed our hopes. All in all it was a much better performance. Where was this attitude and application against Germany? Anyway, it's all history now but what can we learn from this World Cup experience? In my opinion, we lacked a playmaker again like the previous World Cup. We lacked the fast tricky wing players taking players on, and sorry Brett Holman, but you still don't convince me. Compare Argentina to Australia and you'll notice the difference. Our goalkeeper, Mark Schwarzer, is on par if not better, the defence similar, but when it comes to the midfield and forward players there is a huge difference. We have players that can defend well, apart from the occasion-

al blimp like the one we had against Germany, but the big difference lays in going forward, our touch and control, the short passing, the dribblers - this is the area Australia needs to improve in order to compete with the best and even win the world cup one day. Get that right, and yes, we can even win this thing one day!

Overall, it was fantastic having Australia at another World Cup and great for our sport back home. It has been a learning experience and we are better equipped for it. Let's hope the people running the game can see what most can see and focus on producing technically gifted players. By producing and selecting the caliber of such players as the core to the team, I strongly believe this is going to make the difference for the next World Cup.

In the next game against Serbia I

would like to see the young players given an opportunity and a chance to shine. Players like Vidosic, Federici, Jedinak should be given a start and will probably have the legs to carry us. Well done Aussies, but we just were not good enough this time around.

The Greeks also came out firing against Nigeria. I mentioned that Kyrgiakos should be back in the defence, Samaras on the park, Charisteas off and Karagounis to get his act together. Eliminate that stupid long searching ball, and guess what? They must have read my column in Goal! Weekly, because it was those precise changes that inspired a very impressive Greek team to reverse the humiliation experienced against Korea. Now they face a red hot Argentina and they need to win. Can they do it? The odds are against them but

miracles can happen. Especially if Argentina rest some of their stars as they will finish first in the group no matter what the result. So let's wait and see.

From the other teams, Mexico and Chile have been flying the Latin flag proudly and were exciting, Holland looked impressive even without Arjen Robben in their team - imagine when he is on the park! Germany will bounce back, Argentina are hitting their straps and have too much class, whilst Brazil can also play as they have the goods. As for Spain, it will be intriguing to see if they can bounce back now that the pressure is really on.

Remember the Messi and Maradona factor. Don't we just love them!

See you next week.

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## THE KATSA

With George Katsamboukas



**This week has certainly been an interesting one for Australian Soccer, where...**

The Socceroos have been far from impressive in South Africa, with the punters lining up for Pim Verbeek's scalp.

The Captain of the Lynch Mob has been Craig Foster, who launched an attack on Verbeek straight after the 4-0 loss to Germany, and he believes that he should be sacked.

There are many punters who share this view, and Verbeek is about as popular at the moment as J Walker would be at an AA Meeting.

Verbeek announced his intention to move on after the World Cup Finals to sunny Morocco where he would be Director of Youth Coaching.

He therefore went into the World Cup

Finals with no real pressure on him as Win, Lose or Draw, he had a gig to go to.

This is hardly a healthy scenario and the Powerbrokers at the FFA have certainly a headache on their hands at the moment, as the failure at the World Cup Finals has flow on effects to the popularity of the Game at the Local Level, as a good Socceroos performance equates to increased recognition of the Game locally, as well as increased participation rates at Junior Level.

Back to Craig Foster -this guy, and good on him, is not backwards in going forwards, something that is lacking with many other commentators who sugar coat their views, so as to not upset anyone.

He calls it as it is, and he has suc-

cessfully moved through the "System" as his interview with Ange Postecoglou a few years ago was the catalyst for Postecoglou losing his Youth Socceroo gig, seems now that Foster has his eyes on removing Verbeek also, albeit prematurely, as Verbeek will be sunning it up in Morocco in a few weeks anyway.

However, when it rains it pours and after the Germany defeat, Australia fronted up to Ghana, and after a great start with Holman scoring an early Happy End, it all went downhill after that with Kewell being sent off for a goal-line hand ball.

There are many schools of thought as to whether the sending off decision of Harry Kewell was a correct one, with some believing that it was unintentional, whilst others seeing a very small move-

ment of the arm, to block the Ball.

For mine, Kewell was on the goal line, the ball did hit his arm, it stopped the ball from crossing the line, therefore the Red Ticket was warranted.

To their credit though, the Aussies fought out a 1-1 draw which will probably not be enough to qualify to the next round.

It will be interesting to see where Australian Soccer ends up over the next few years, as the guys that are coming through are hardly of the calibre of the one's that have recently retired, like Mark Viduka, or about to retire.

All comes back to poor Youth Development in Australia, something that has not been adequately addressed; unfortunately, this will now cost us dearly in years to come.

Back to the local scene we go, where the punters who went to John Cain Reserve, certainly got their moneys worth, as 12 goals were scored in a game whose score line resembled a Volleyball Score, with the Blue Boys coming out 7-5 winners against Altona Magic. And who said that Soccer was a boring Game!

Until next week

This Is Katsa - Just as you have known him

And remember, if you are a Coach, and you want to keep your job, make sure that Craig Foster does not know that you exist!

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# WHY HAS THE WORLD CUP BEEN SO BORING?

By Leroy Robinson

The first round of group matches has come and gone. Having watched consecutive World Cup's since Spain in 1982, I have to say this has been one of the worst opening rounds I have ever seen - devoid of attacking football and embraced by embellishment. I don't think I'm being unduly kind. I've found myself cursing at the TV screen, turning the sound down, switching the TV off (and back on again almost immediately) and generally behaving like a man whose been married to the same woman far too long - pointing out all her faults rather than seeing her beauty. YES, the action has picked up somewhat during the 2nd round of matches but, let's be honest, it had to. So, what's been the problem so far?

## 1 - NEGATIVE FORMATIONS

I suspected we'd see a lot of 4-5-1 (masquerading as 4-3-3) and I wasn't disappointed. You know if it's a 4-3-3 formation because usually the players in the wide areas are not interested in defending because they are forwards. The Dutch and Argentines spring to mind. But a 4-5-1 formation doesn't have to be negative. It is dependent on midfield players willing to run beyond the central striker and take chances. The first round of group matches was punctuated by the fear of losing. Fewer chances were taken by the coaches, and this transmits to the players.

One thing I was particularly upset about was Bafana Bafana's opening day display against Mexico. They played with fear, in the first half especially. In fact, on opening day, the ceremony and the enthusiastic crowd was the most encouraging aspect of the World Cup. The second game against Uruguay was no better. They had one, and when they felt adventurous sometimes two men, in the penalty area - even though a goal down.

The good news is as the tournament progresses, and teams have to get results, play generally becomes more attacking. So I won't be throwing away my TV just yet.

## 2 - LACK OF QUALITY

Otto Rehhagel, the coach of a Greece team known for its ponderous and negative play, defended his lack of adventure. He suggested that only the additions of Kaka, Messi, Xavi and Iniesta would precipitate a change in playing style. His point is you play the hand you're dealt, so I guess the reason teams play one upfront is be borne out of necessity. I implied not so long ago that the World Cup was devoid of top quality strikers. This is another reason for the plethora of boring games. There are many teams who have "good" strikers but none that have two top quality goal getters - aside



In this World Cup many teams have opted to park the team bus across the goal-line in order to avoid defeat rather than go for the win.

from Argentina and Spain. Yes, England plays with two upfront, but I would include them in that category too. France, Denmark and, to an extent Brazil, have this problem. Why play two upfront when you can load the midfield and be hard to beat?

Creative midfielders have also been in short supply. No dribblers, no pinpoint passing and nothing to get too excited about. Out of all the teams only Germany and Argentina have depth in attack position.

Yet World Cup's invariably come down to a solid defence, and nicking goals and hanging on. The Swiss provided that blueprint against the Spanish and it won't be the last time a favoured team is humbled by hard work and discipline. This means that one upfront will still be the standard formation of the underdog.

## 3 - DIVING

Out of all the things that got me pulling out what little hair I have left, this is the daddy. You see I'm old school, unless the defender draws blood in the challenge I don't think a free kick should be given. That might be a slight exaggeration, but there have been times during the matches when I wanted to contact FIFA and ask if football was still a contact sport.

Don't get me wrong, I don't condone studs-up challenges or raised hands. But since when has a simple shoulder to shoulder challenge been a foul, or a player tripping over the ball? The sight that sums all this up is in the Uruguay-South Africa game. Two players go for

the ball with studs, Luis Suarez (which he has done all tournament) falls over crying and is awarded the free kick. Like kindergarten, whoever cries loudest gets the lollipop.

Never before (and I've seen a lot of football) have I seen so many free kicks given when a player is lightly touched, arches their back and falls over as if Jackie Chan has used them as Tae Kwon Do practice. Embellishment has become such an accepted part of the game these antics are only mentioned by commentators in passing. Well, if FIFA really are interested in continuing to market the game as entertainment, then this needs to be sorted. Referees need to work out the difference between a nudge, which one may receive in a shopping queue, with a shove. Until this happens football will continue to be a stop-start game of who can con the ref the most.

## 4 - THE BALL

Having been just about good enough to get into my school team, it's hard to comment on how much effect the Jabulani ball is having on the games. Anyone looking at Greece's second goal against Nigeria has to admit the exaggerated movement of the ball played a part. Yet is it really so hard to pass the ball to a teammate along the ground with this Jabulani ball? I fail to believe that. The debate about the ball has gotten further inside the player's heads than a Hollywood shrink. These are professionals. Having had weeks to adjust I don't see how, other than long range shooting, it can have much effect. Come to think

of it, how many long shots ordinarily hit the back of the net anyway? Most sail over the bar. But at this World Cup it isn't classed as poor technique, it's classed as The Jabulani effect.

## 5 - FALTERING FAVOURITES

In my eyes the World Cup doesn't really start until Brazil take to the field. And when they do someone please let me know. More disappointing than Carlos Dunga's decision to play defensive midfielders Felipe Melo and Gilberto Silva against North Korea was the form of Kaka'. He's brought his Real Madrid form into the tournament. I get the sense that here is a player nearing the end of his international career. That spark, acceleration and quick thinking have gone. The shocking thing for Brazil is that they don't have anyone in the squad to replace him because Dunga, in his wisdom, left Ronaldinho out. Spain, as well as Brazil, has struggled to cope with the defensive tactics of their opponents. Maybe the fitness and organisation of the minnows surprised these giants. Or maybe the fancied teams aren't as good as we thought they were.

## 6 - AFRICAN FAILURE

Whichever way you look at it African teams have been rubbish at this World Cup. I kept hearing that Africa was ready for a semi-finalist and this was the year. No-one told the players. Or the fans. Nigeria, population 140million, couldn't fill out the stadium against Greece. There are more England fans in South Africa than Nigerians. Shame on them. They've had months to think

about supporting their team and have stayed away. Greece and Nigeria played to a half full stadium. And I don't want to hear about lack of funds. Has anyone seen what's happening in Greece lately? Their country is broke and yet they had more fans cheering their team on than the Nigerians.

It has been suggested that the pressure of expectation has gotten to the African players. From what I've seen they just haven't been good enough. If you watch African teams they really struggle to keep hold of the football. Until this is rectified they won't get to a World Cup semi. Just look at the best technical players to come out of Africa - Abedi Pele, Jay Jay Okocha and Nwankwo Kanu. These guys spent most of their lives honing their skills in Europe and it's no coincidence most African teams (the darker-skinned ones) have foreign coaches. It's all down to European or South American coaches getting players at a young age and teaching them how to play. Look at Japan. Who did they turn to when they started their fledgling J-League? Brazilian coaches and players. The bottom line though is that Nigeria, Cameroon, South Africa, Algeria and Ivory Coast probably won't make it into the next round because they are simply not good enough.

## 7 - THE POSITIVES

Historically the second and third rounds produce more attacking football. Some teams, driven by desperation, will have to attack. The most pleasant surprise so far has been Mexico. They play incisive passing football and though I think they'll get bumped at the last 16 stages they're great to watch. They commit players forward and don't seem scared of anyone.

Argentina is not far off. They play a true 4-3-3 with attackers who have no defensive responsibility. But they won't win the cup. They're like a fast car. Enjoy it while you can because they it's just a matter of time before it crashes.

Germany will take some beating. But don't go anointing them or the Argentines as champions. Usually a team wins the World Cup by overcoming adversity - remember Thuram's two goals for France in the semis against Croatia? The true test for all teams will be in the knockout stage, when teams have to overcome adversity. And I'm not sure this young German team are ready for it just yet - that's if they even get there.

## FIRST ROUND BEST XI

**Goalkeeper:** Enyeama (Nigeria)  
**Defenders:** Lahm (Germany), Maicon (Brazil), Tulio (Japan), Onyiah (USA)  
**Midfield:** Ozil (Germany), Robinho (Brazil), Gerrard (England)  
**Attack:** Messi (Argentina), Podolski (Germany), Gyan (Ghana)



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## Can it get any worse than this?

England have just played their second game in their World Cup group, and once again all they have to show for their efforts is another draw, this time against Algeria. But not only was the result not what England and their fans would have wanted, it was possibly the worst England performance in recent memory.

Now I am not someone who likes to overly criticise players and teams, as often the kind of sweeping remarks that tabloid papers write are off the mark and do more harm than good. Last week England played fairly well against a tough USA side, but after they were roasted in many pundits' newspaper articles. On the whole I think ripping into the team serves little to no purpose other than to make the writer feel a little better about themselves, and so far as much as I can I try and refrain from doing so. However, in this instance, England have to be made accountable from sports writers around the globe for their inept performance of the grandest stage of them all.

First off, as I am a fairly optimistic person, let's look at the positives from Friday night's game. I think it's fair to say that England finally have a number one goalkeeper. David James didn't have much to do, but whatever he had to do was done with confidence. He looked alive to defensive troubles, and he is much more talkative than Robert Green, which I think defenders prefer. Of course they don't call him Calamity James for nothing, and a mistake may be just around the corner, yet I think he inspires more confidence in England players and fans than Green ever did.

I also think that Steven Gerrard can hold his head up, as he was undoubtedly our best player against both USA and Algeria. Granted, he didn't play exactly well against the North Africans, but he wasn't as bad as some that I will be mentioning in a short while. I think he is taking the captaincy well, and I do think that if England start to improve elsewhere then he will show himself to be a rather inspirational leader, as he has done for so long at Liverpool.

Unfortunately, that's about it for the positives from the game. If you didn't happen to see the game, I would thoroughly think about giving it a miss completely, especially if you're an England fan. Undoubtedly this was the worst they have played in any tournament since I have been watching them, and it's possibly one of the worst dis-



Write the future? Looks like it could be a case of going back to the drawing board for England.

plays that the Three Lions have put on in their history. As I say, I'm not one for sweeping, bombastic statements, but England simply were that bad.

A lot of what has been said and written has seemingly focused much of the abuse towards the England boss, Fabio Capello. Typically for England fans and journalists, this was a man who a few weeks ago was being praised for being such a good manager, someone who has taken England to a tournament with ease, and who is the right man who makes the right decisions. Now he is apparently getting everything wrong both in terms of his player selection and his tactics. In England we thrive on building someone up then knocking them down.

I do think that Capello has made some errors in regards to who he has picked, both in terms of squad selection and in terms of which eleven men he puts onto the field. And I do think that he needs to tinker with the formation that England are currently trying, perhaps by pushing Gerrard forward and leaving Heskey on the bench. But for me the

abysmal performance against Algeria was not his fault, it was solely the fault of the players who took to the field.

England simply could get nothing going; they couldn't pass the ball to each other, they couldn't control the ball, they couldn't run with the ball as they'd kick it too far ahead of them, and their decision making in key situations was all wrong. I know that England will never be able to keep possession like Spain or Brazil, or even for that matter the Germans, but we don't need to. Ask an Arsenal fan if they'd rather have all the possession that they usually amass, or a few more wins instead, and they'd take to wins in a second. England aren't set up to hold possession as technically their players cannot do it, but we compensate with quick attacks and intense pressure on the opposition.

So it wasn't the fact that England couldn't retain possession that bothers me, it was the fact that they quite simply could not string any sequences of passes together. And when a pass was successful it was usually greeted by poor control which enabled Algeria to

get back possession. And that's when the passes went to England players, as more often than not the England players seemed to be wholeheartedly passing to the men in green rather than their teammates in white. The very fundamentals of football, trapping the ball and passing it on, something which every single person in the world who plays football can do, were seemingly lost on the England players, who couldn't put a sequence of five attacking passes together over all of the ninety minutes.

It wasn't as if England missed a couple of chances to alter the score line either, as our best chance all night was a scuffed Frank Lampard, who was particularly incognito, shot which the Algerian number three keeper saved comfortably.

And the man who should be getting the heaviest criticism put upon his shoulders right now is the man who many believed would be England's saviour, Wayne Rooney. By far this was the worst performance that the young England forward has put in during his whole career, not just for England

but for both Everton and Manchester United as well. Almost every time he touched the ball he lost it, and believe me that is an understatement. I think maybe twice he and Gerrard passed the ball nicely to each other, but apart from that Rooney did nothing.

Some have suggested that he's not fully fit, which I think has some truth to it, but that is no excuse for not being able to trap the ball and pass it to a team-mate. Wayne Rooney this season was probably the best player in the world that's not called Lionel Messi, but on this form he's not as good as half the players in the English third tier of league football. If you regularly read this column, and well done if you do, then you know I have somewhat of a man-crush on the potato-headed wonderkid, but even I can't defend him here.

And to make things worse, after the game England were booed off by their fans, which Rooney sarcastically told a camera on the pitch was nice to see fans being so loyal to their team. Usually I don't condone fans booing their own players, but in this instance the fans were right to express how unhappy they were with the performance. As one fan put it, England supporters are some of the best in the world, and they follow their team wherever they go. Some spend wages that they don't really have to go and watch their team on the biggest stage of them all, to be given this display of ineptitude. And whilst it may hurt Rooney's feelings to be booed, he can sit back and take his astronomical wages and retire as 35, whereas many fans will just about get a state pension, and will not be able to give up work in their mid-sixties let alone mid-thirties.

Now I'm not one to toot my own horn, but toot toot, as just last week I suggested that England would probably start this World Cup with uninspiring draws against the USA and Algeria, but even I didn't think we would be this bad. One glimmer of light in the tunnel of despair for England fans is that at least England can't get any worse, and hopefully this poor performance will result in England finding a better formation or a better team selection. And I don't think that England's chances of winning the World Cup are all over, as many things can change over the course of a tournament such as this.

But on this evidence England won't even get out of their group, let alone win the whole thing.

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# ‘World of Soccer’ World Cup Round 3 at Saxon Sports

More goals, high tension and some thrilling finishes completed the group stage here @ the World of Soccer World Cup!

Round 2’s 178 goals was smashed tonight when the final line of defence was broken 198 times in 14 games!

It’s all about attack and all nations are giving it every effort to make sure they come out on top.

Round 3’s Game of the Night was without doubt the Nigeria-Greece thriller - a 6-6 final score means that Greece grabbed top spot over Argentina by the point they gained and Nigeria’s hard earned point means they secure one of the two 3rd placed qualification spots in the last 16 - just ahead of Spain and Mexico.

Netherland’s tactical game plan sees them qualify with a 100% record after a heated contest with Cameroon. South Africa, Australia, Paraguay, Portugal & Chile also have 100% records while Greece go through undefeated with 2 wins and tonight’s draw.

Here’s the Last 16 draw to be played Friday June 25

SOUTH AFRICA V NIGERIA (3rd)  
AUSTRALIA V SWITZERLAND  
PARAGUAY V BRAZIL

CHILE V GERMANY  
GREECE V FRANCE  
NETHERLANDS V SERBIA (3rd)  
PORTUGAL V ITALY  
CAMEROON V ARGENTINA

All games promise to be absolute crackers and with 7 undefeated nations there are sure to be some upsets

The Portugal V Italy clash could be the one to watch when two of the Golden Boot Leading goal scorers, Billy (Portugal 19 goals) & Chaz (Italy 14 goals) will go head to head!!

World Of Soccer & Saxon Sports Frankston would like to thank all nations, that are making this tournament a great spectacle on the Peninsula, for their participation and sportsmanship.

Watch this space for all the latest news next week

Group A  
Mexico 6 v Uruguay 5  
South Africa 6 v France 4

Group B  
Argentina 5 v Korea Republic 0  
Nigeria 6 v Greece 6

Group C  
Australia 7 v Serbia 6 - close defeat secured the highest placed

3rd place spot in last 16  
Germany 16 v Ghana 2

Group D  
Netherlands 9 v Cameroon 6  
Japan 5 v Denmark 0

Group E  
Italy 18 v New Zealand 1  
Paraguay 14 v England 2

Group F  
Brazil 8 v Ivory Coast 4  
Portugal 18 v Algeria 2

Group G  
Chile 15 v Spain 10  
Switzerland 13 v Honduras 4

The night’s Top Goal Scorers:  
Billy (Portugal) 7  
Steve (Paraguay) 6  
Glen (Netherlands) 6  
Chaz (Italy) 6  
Daniel (Chile) 5

World Cup Golden Boot  
Leaderboard:  
Billy (Portugal) 19  
Matt (Brazil) 17  
Chaz (Italy) 14

WAG OF THE WEEK



Danielle Lloyd Age: 26  
InSignificant Other: Tottenham midfielder, Jamie O’Hara.



## COUCH POTATO DEPT.

\* ALL TIMES ARE AEDT

goalweekly.com



Global Football Show  
Jacob Kagi and Ian Hooper discusses local, national and international football every Thursday night from 7.30-9pm on WA’s SportFM 91.3.



The Futbol Town Show  
Every Monday  
7pm

SMFC TV  
Channel 31  
Every Saturday  
10.00am

Extra Time Magazine Show  
Every Wednesday  
8pm

The Green Gully Football Show  
Every Saturday  
10.30am



29 - Mon 21-Jun 04:00 LIVE  
Brazil v Cote d’Ivoire  
30 - Mon 21-Jun 21:00 LIVE  
Portugal v Korea DPR  
31 - Mon 21-Jun 23:30 LIVE  
Chile v Switzerland  
32 - Tues 22-Jun 04:00 LIVE  
Spain v Honduras  
33 - Tues 22-Jun 23:30 LIVE  
Mexico v Uruguay  
34 - Wed 23-Jun 02:00 Delayed  
France v South Africa  
35 - Wed 23-Jun 04:00 LIVE  
Greece v Argentina  
36 - Wed 23-Jun 06:30 Delayed  
Nigeria v Korea Republic  
37 - Wed 23-Jun 23:30 LIVE  
Slovenia v England  
38 - Thurs 24-Jun 02:00 Delayed  
USA v Algeria  
39 - Thurs 24-Jun 04:00 LIVE  
Australia v Serbia  
40 - Thurs 24-Jun 06:30 Delayed

Ghana v Germany  
41 - Thurs 24-Jun 23:30 LIVE  
Slovakia v Italy  
42 - Fri 25-Jun 02:00 Delayed  
Paraguay v New Zealand  
43 - Fri 25-Jun 04:00 LIVE  
Cameroon v Netherlands  
44 - Fri 25-Jun 06:30 Delayed  
Denmark v Japan  
45 - Fri 25-Jun 23:30 LIVE  
Portugal v Brazil  
46 - Sat 26-Jun 02:00 Delayed  
Korea DPR v Cote d’Ivoire  
47 - Sat 26-Jun 04:00 LIVE  
Chile v Spain  
48 - Sat 26-Jun 06:30 Delayed  
Switzerland v Honduras

Round of 16  
49 - Sat 26-Jun 23:30 LIVE  
1A v 2B  
50 - Sun 27-Jun 04:00 LIVE  
1C v 2D  
51 - Sun 27-Jun 23:30 LIVE  
1D v 2C  
52 - Mon 28-Jun 04:00 LIVE  
1B v 2A  
53 - Mon 28-Jun 23:30 LIVE  
1E v 2F  
54 - Tues 29-Jun 04:00 LIVE  
1G v 2H  
55 - Tues 29-Jun 23:30 LIVE

1F v 2E  
56 - Wed 30-Jun 04:00 LIVE  
1H v 2G

Quarter Finals  
57 - Fri 02-Jul 23:30 LIVE  
53 v 54  
58 - Sat 03-Jul 04:00 LIVE  
49 v 50  
59 - Sat 03-Jul 23:30 LIVE  
52 v 51  
60 - Sun 04-Jul 04:00 LIVE  
55 v 56

Semi Finals  
61 - Wed 07-Jul 04:00 LIVE  
58 v 57  
62 - Thurs 08-Jul 04:00 LIVE  
59 v 60

3rd & 4th Place Play-Off  
63 - Sun 11-Jul 04:00 LIVE  
61 (Losers) v 62 (Losers)

World Cup Final  
64 - Mon 12-Jul 03:30 LIVE  
61 v 62

## World Cup Puzzle

Just for fun ... unscramble the anagrams to discover the name of a player from each of the WC2010 pool groups. Answers upside down below.

Group A: Funny UFO cargo  
Group B: Lose TV craze  
Group C: Shall rush with piping  
Group D: Is brewing anaesthetics  
Group E: Use loo mate  
Group F: I adore idleness  
Group G: Cast-iron doornail  
Group H: Arse or front-end?  
Wild card: In all clues

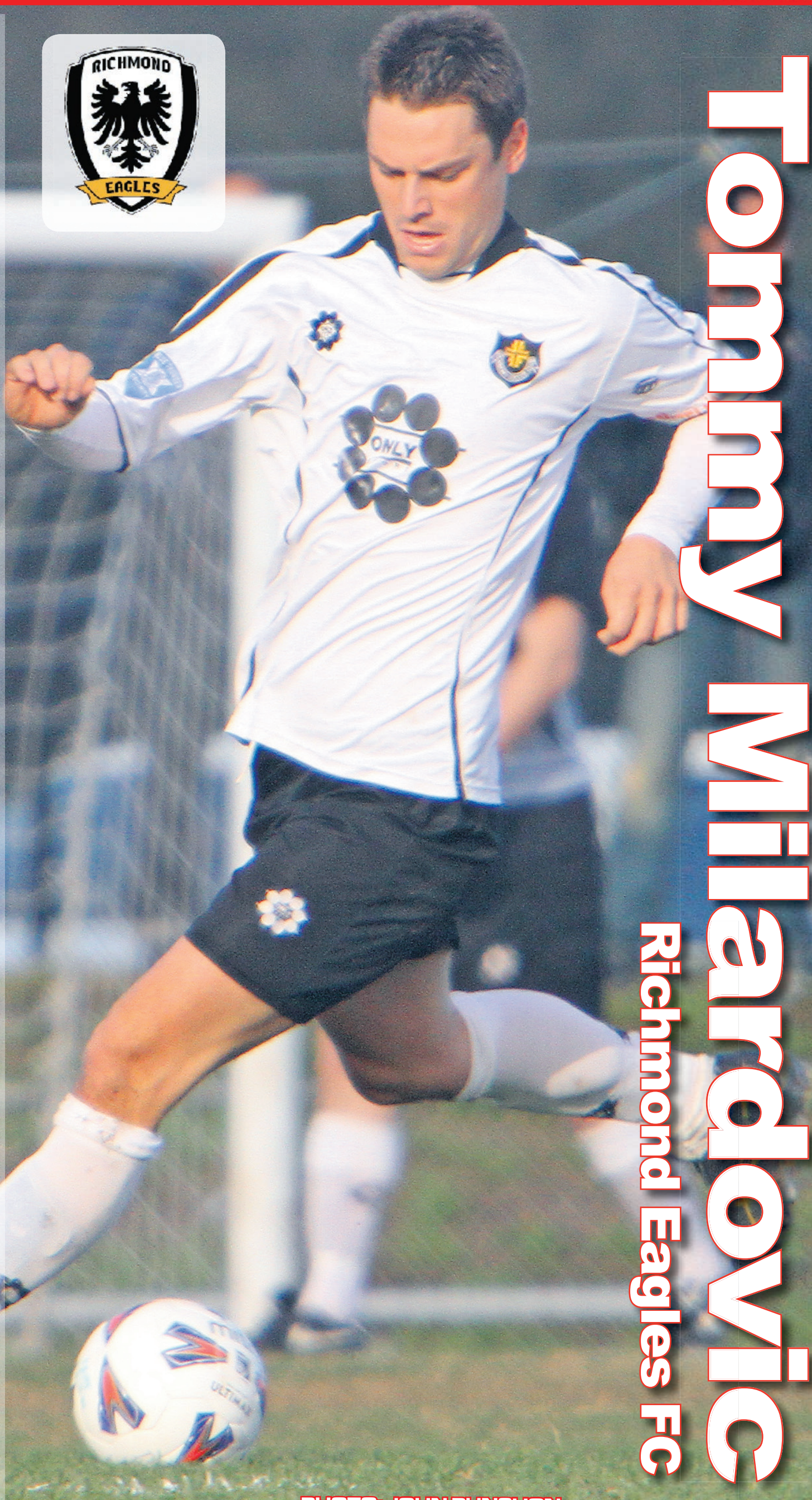
Answers:

Wild card: Lucas Neill, Australia  
Group A: Fernando Torres, Spain  
Group B: Cristiano Ronaldo, Portugal  
Group C: Daniele De Rossi, Italy  
Group D: Samuel Eto'o, Cameroon  
Group E: Bastian Schweinsteiger, Germany  
Group F: Shaun Wright-Phillips, England  
Group G: Carlos Tevez, Argentina  
Group H: Yoann Gourcuff, France





**Full name:** Tommy Milardovic  
**Birthplace:** Melbourne  
**Birthdate:** 06 08 82  
**Height:** 183 cms  
**Weight:** 80 kgs  
**Married:** No  
**Car:** Holden VT  
**Nickname:** Milards  
**Previous clubs:** St Albans, Adelaide United, Melbourne Knights  
**Childhood hero:** Robbie Fowler  
**Rep honours:** -  
**Favourite OS player:** Steven Gerrard  
**Favourite HAL player:** Eugene Galekovic  
**Favourite former Socceroo:** Mark Viduka  
**Favourite current Socceroo:** Eugene Galekovic  
**Most memorable match as a player:** Adelaide United v Wellington, won 2-1 in NZ  
**Most memorable match as a fan:** Croatia v Germany Euro 2008  
**Most memorable goal youve scored:** Two screamers for the Knights v Kingston  
**Earliest football memory:** Playing juniors at Churchill Reserve for the Saints  
**Funniest moment in football:** Playing left back last year  
**Biggest disappointment:** Surgery on my groins  
**Worst injury:** Groins  
**Most difficult opponent:** Johnny Sapazovski  
**Favourite away ground:** Bob Jane  
**Superstitions:** None  
**Match day meal:** Pasta  
**What are your strengths:** Passing and reading the game  
**What are your weaknesses:** None  
**Favourite team when growing up:** Liverpool  
**Favourite other sports:** AFL  
**Favourite other sports person:** Roger Federer  
**Favourite food:** Schnitzel  
**Favourite actor-actress:** Jim Carey, Sandra Bullock  
**Hobbies:** Sleeping  
**Favourite holiday resort:** Adriatic coast  
**Favourite night spot:** Has to be PJs  
**Ideal date:** My girlfriend  
**Favourite TV shows:** Different Strokes  
**Favourite music:** Rock  
**Favourite film:** Dumb and Dumber  
**Last soccer shirt you bought:** Can't remember  
**Funniest rumour you heard about yourself:** Too many to pick from  
**Biggest influence on career:** Family  
**Biggest drag in soccer:** Warming up  
**Football ambition:** VPL champions with Richmond this year  
**Which person in the world would you most like to meet:** Pim Verbeek  
**Your tip for this year's World Cup:** Holland



# Tommy Milardovic

Richmond Eagles FC

PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



# Chile announces its intentions



The streets of Santiago in Chile had scenes of mixed feelings as thousands gathered to celebrate in jubilation after the 1-0 win last Wednesday night AEST time against Honduras.

Creative midfielder Jorge Valdivia is also now in doubt for the second match up against Switzerland following their emphatic single-goal win over Spain. Coach Marcelo Bielsa insisted that striker Humberto Suazo has recovered from his hamstring injury in time for their World Cup opener but noted that the 29-year-old is not yet fully match fit.

The Zaragoza striker was injured in la Roja's penultimate warm-up game against Israel sparking fears that he would miss the entire tournament but it now appears that he has recovered from the minor hamstring tear in time to be considered for selection for their opener.

"Suazo has been training fully in the last three days. If you ask whether he has returned to the form he had before the injury, I would say he has not yet resumed. If you ask me if he is healthy, yes he is, in the sense that he can assume the task of other players that are also healthy," the Argentine trainer told a press conference.

Even after Chile broke a 48-year World Cup victory drought, its coach was searching for more. "The win will only serve handy to us if we make it to the next round."

Jean Beausejour, striker with Mexican giant América scored the only goal and Chile beat Honduras 1-0 Wednesday for its first World Cup win since it hosted the 1962 tournament. In a free-flowing match Wednesday, Chile won the opening game of Group H after Beausejour tapped in a cross from Mauricio Isla in the 34th minute.

"Not enough", coach Marcelo Bielsa said. Chile came close to doubling its lead on several occasions. In the 62nd minute, Alexis Sanchez sent a clear-cut chance wide after he was put in free by ever-dangerous playmaker Jorge Valdivia. In the 64th minute, defender Waldo Ponce saw his close-range header saved brilliantly by goalkeeper Noel Valladares. "We could have scored more goals and we were on top," Bielsa said. "You can't foresee what will happen, but if the group is decided in that way (on goal difference), then we will rue the chances we missed."

"It's an historic triumph," striker Mark Gonzalez said. "We're very happy, and we have to enjoy this triumph," Sanchez added. "But we have to move ahead and win the game against our next rival (Switzerland)." Chile's last World Cup victory was on June 16, 1962, when it came in third by beating Yugoslavia. This is Chile's first World Cup since 1998, when three draws sent it into the second round. "The Chilean people have been waiting for this for quite some time," said defender Mauricio Isla. "We have given them huge happiness".

Chile was on the offensive almost from the start, with midfielder Matías Fernández of Sporting Lisbon in Portugal, threatening as early as the second minute with a free kick that curled just over the crossbar after Valdivia was fouled by Wilson Palacios 30 yards from goal.

Valdivia's tap-in in the 75th minute was ruled offside. Honduras seldom showed any spark against a well-organized Chile defense led by Gary Medel. Honduras was restricted to long-range efforts, primarily from lone striker Carlos Pavon. Honduras' best chance came from midfielder Ramón Núñez, whose free kick in first-half injury time was tipped over the net by keeper Claudio Bravo.

"It's a fair result," Honduras defender Sergio Mendoza said. "We didn't have a clear chance at goal. We knew we could lose this match, but qualifying out of the group is not impossible."

Chile's attacking style was evident during the South American qualifiers, when it finished in second place behind Brazil. At times Wednesday, it looked as danger-



Hot to trot! Chile has commenced its assault on the World Cup with a impressive opening display.

ous at the five-time champions. Known as "El Loco" for his obsessive knowledge of soccer and attention to detail, Bielsa—who guided his native Argentina in the 2002 World Cup—is noted for his attacking style. A banner in the stadium showed the regard some fans have for him: "Marcelo Bielsa, Chile thanks you."

"It's a fair name I've been given because of some of the more exaggerated aspects of my personality," he said. "We'll try to win the next game because the objective is to pass to the next round and start writing new records." Switzerland stunned second-ranked Spain 1-0 later Wednesday in Durban, completing the first set of opening-round matches. Honduras-Chile was the first World Cup game in Nelspruit's Mbombela Stadium, which borders the world-renowned Kruger National Park. The official attendance was 32,664; capacity is 43,000.

For Uruguay, it was an overwhelming victory over the hosts while South African fans blew their vuvuzelas long and loud, hoping to bring their team luck in the World Cup.



**Atlético Madrid stalwart Diego Forlán had other ideas and brought the party to a crashing halt, scoring two goals in a 3-0 victory Wednesday night that pushed the hosts closer to exiting the first World Cup staged in Africa. That would be a first for a host country in the tournament.**

Forlan scored on a deflected 25-yard shot in the 24th minute, then converted a penalty kick in the 80th minute for a commanding lead. Alvaro Pereira added a goal in stoppage time.

"Obviously, as a forward I like to score goals, but the important thing is to win," Forlan said. "The team is good. We also played well against France. We're very solid."

Making matters worse for South Africa, goalkeeper Itumeleng Khune was ejected by Swiss referee Massimo Busacca in the 76th minute for clipping the leg of Luis Suarez as the forward jumped over him in front of an open net. Khune lowered his head to the ground and angrily pounded the field with both fists.

Parreira called Busacca "the worst referee in this competition so far."

"I hope I don't see his face in any game anymore," he said.

Backup Moneeb Josephs took over in goal as Pienaar exited.

Forlán put the penalty kick over the goalkeeper's outstretched right hand for his second goal, matching his pair for Atlético Madrid against Fulham in last month's Europa League final. The constant bee-like noise from the vuvuzelas immediately ebbed, and streams of fans started exiting, leaving thousands of empty blue seats by the time Pereira knocked in Suarez's cross.

Uruguay, which opened with a 0-0 draw against France, has four points going into its group-play finale against Mexico on Tuesday. South Africa wasted a second-half lead

in a 1-1 tie against Mexico in last week's World Cup opener, and has one point. It plays France on Tuesday in Bloemfontein. The situation became a little clearer Thursday when Mexico upset the French, "Les Bleus".

"We are convinced that we can win the World Cup," Uruguay coach Oscar Tabarez said. "We don't have a lot of room to maneuver. We have to play very well each time. Winning this victory over the home team, the national squad, with all the fans behind them, this was not easy."

Uruguay went ahead when Forlan's shot that hit South Africa captain Aaron Mokeona on his shoulder and looped over Khune. The closest South Africa came to scoring was in the 66th minute, when Katlego Mphela's close-range header off a cross at the near post was off-target, and Uruguay goalkeeper Fernando Muslera got the shut-out on his 24th birthday.

"Chicharito" was too big for France.



**Mexico's Javier Hernández, the new recent signing by Manchester United, whose nickname means "Little Green Pea", emulated his grandfather by a scoring a World Cup goal against France. One major difference: his was in a victory.**

Substitutes Hernández and Cuauhtémoc Blanco each scored in Mexico's 2-0 win over France on Thursday, leaving El Tri needing only a draw to reach the next round. Hernández ran onto Rafael Márquez's pass as the France defense stopped, believing Hernández was offside. He dribbled around goalkeeper Hugo Lloris before guiding the ball home in the 64th minute.

"I remembered my grandfather in the locker room," Hernández said. "I haven't spoken to my family yet, they're my main motivation. He carried on a family tradition by scoring against France at the World Cup on Thursday: his grandfather did the same thing 56 years ago."

The 22-year-old Hernández came on as a second-half substitute Thursday and escaped the offside trap set up by the France defense after 63 minutes. He dribbled past goalkeeper Hugo Lloris and netted the ball in the empty goal.

"I just remembered that now in the dressing room," Hernández said. "This is something I remember my grandfather for all the time ... I've not yet spoken to my grandfather, it's great that we both were able to score against France."

Hernández's strike helped Mexico beat France 2-0 to leave the team with an excellent chance of advancing from Group A. It was a happier ending than Hernández's grandfather Tomás Balcázar experienced, as Mexico lost 3-2 despite his goal at the 1954 World Cup in Switzerland.

"Thank God I could score. More importantly, we could win against a team we hadn't been able to beat in a long time." Blanco put in a penalty kick in the 79th

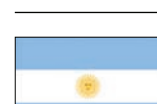
minute after Eric Abidal fouled another substitute, Pablo Barrera. Abidal was caught out of position on both goals while playing center half instead of his usual left back. Mexico next plays Uruguay, and both likely need only a draw to advance. France has only one point and has to beat South Africa and gain a better goal difference, and hope Mexico and Uruguay don't tie their match in Tuesday's final group games.

"We have to enjoy this win," Márquez said. "We have to go step by step and be calm." Mexico fans taunted the French with cries of "Ole! Ole!" as the clock wound down and vuvuzelas blasted. France fans were heavily outnumbered by flag-waving Mexico supporters who packed each end of Peter Mokaba Stadium and unfurled a 30-yard flag.

"We're not going to go out of this tournament without winning a match," France winger Florent Malouda said. "It's shameful to lose like that. It's a question of saving our honor." Mexico coach Javier Aguirre outclassed Raymond Domenech, with all three substitutes making an impact.

Aguirre brought on Barrera after 31 minutes, while Carlos Vela came off and had trainers work on his right thigh. Aguirre said Vela will miss the match with Uruguay. Mexico finished the first half strongly, and Giovanni Dos Santos fired a low shot just wide after chesting the ball down expertly and slipping Patrice Evra's defending with alarming ease. It was a sign of things to come for Mexico.

Argentina can count with the performances equal to measuring proof that they are amongst the best in the world around today. Diego Maradona strutted onto the field at Soccer City an hour before the match and took a long look around, a king surveying his realm.



**The beard is graying, he's carrying more than a few extra pounds and his expensive gray suit strains at the seams across his broad back. Make no mistake, though. Even with the likes of Lionel Messi, Carlos Tevez and Javier Mascherano, Maradona is the undisputed star of Argentina's show.**

"I'm giving my everything for the Argentine team," he said after a 4-1 World Cup victory over South Korea on Thursday that all but assured the Albiceleste of advancing to the round of 16.

A magnet for attention, Maradona does his best to oblige. As his players warmed up before the game, he chatted with someone at the edge of the field—a few feet from a gaggle of photographers, of course. Wearing only a thin track suit on a cold, blustery day, his assistant was quick to drape a warm coat over his shoulders. Whether Maradona can be as gifted a coach as he was a player remains to be seen. But his theatrics on the sidelines are already Oscar-worthy, commanding the spotlight as only "Pibe de Oro"—the Golden Kid—can.

As the team ducked back into the tunnel, he made eye-contact with someone in Argentina's cheering section, smiled, blew kisses and pounded his chest with his fist. When the team returned for the national anthems, as many cameras were focused on Maradona as the players.

But just as he did two decades ago, he saved his best performance for the game itself.

With diamond studs as big as mints gleaming in each ear, he embraced each of his players and sent them off. He tried mightily to restrain himself when play began, jamming his hands deep in his pockets or clasping them behind his back, fiddling with the rosary wrapped tight around the fingers of his left hand.

He has as much trouble containing himself these days as befuddled defenses did 20 years ago.

While South Korea's Huh Jung-moo didn't venture out of a small corner at the top of the coach's box, Maradona wore out a path on the grass with his pacing. Any time an Argentine player was knocked down or penalized, he threw up his arms in dismay—as if someone had attacked one of his children. After one foul too many for his liking, he began shouting at his old foe Huh.

The last time Argentina and South Korea met in the World Cup, in 1986, Huh made what many would consider a reckless tackle on Maradona. The two insist all that is ancient history, but it sure didn't look that way. They shouted back and forth, Maradona punctuating his angry roars with hand gestures that would make the folks in Napoli proud. Finally, both coaches were told to simmer down.

It wouldn't be the last time Maradona would be hushed. That dotted line designed to keep coaches in their boxes is merely a suggestion for him. He roamed up to the touchline, and all the way over to midfield on more than one occasion. Trying to corral a bull would have been easier than keeping him in place.

At one point, unhappy with what he considered rough treatment of the Argentine players, he went to the side of the box to plead his case, standing quietly with his hands clasped as if in prayer. But the official was wise to his antics and never even glanced Maradona's way.

Though beloved as a player, he's taken plenty of criticism since becoming coach, including his lack of experience and some tactical decisions.

No one questions his passion.

When one of Messi's shots sailed wide, Maradona gestured in frustration and gave the ground a vicious kick. He pulled at his hair after a miss by Tevez, his yelp so loud it almost drowned out the vuvuzelas. However, his joy after any one of his players scored was as heartfelt as the emotion he showed for his own years ago.

Take, for example, Gonzalo Higuaín. He scored three goals. Maradona wasn't sure the first one counted. When it did, he turned to the bench, a look of pure jubilation on his face, and doled out hugs and high-fives to everyone before holding his arms up in Rocky-like triumph.

After Higuaín's second goal, he practically skipped to midfield before jumping into the arms of one of his assistants. Then he turned toward the delirious Argentine fans and waved his right arm as if throwing a lasso, revving them up even more.

With the game well in hand, Maradona's exuberance wasn't about to be contained. He deflected an errant ball with an effortless back volley, drawing a roar of delight from the crowd. He bear-hugged Higuaín so tightly he almost lifted the striker clear off the ground, and he protested a late foul by Messi so vociferously you'd think the refs were Italian tax collectors.

When the final whistle sounded, Maradona marched out to the center circle and, while Huh watched quietly from a distance, hugged every player and shook hands with the referees.

The game may have passed to a new generation of Argentine stars. The spotlight, though, will always belong to Maradona.



# Unlocking the football codes

By Ian Syson

While the AFL is sitting smugly in the glow of all of the publicity surrounding the defection of Kar-michael Hunt and Israel Folau, a dilemma may not be far off. If the players fail to make the grade, the ploy will be seen simply as a cynical exercise in attention seeking. But that is not the worst that could happen.

Their success might prove an even greater problem because it would raise the suggestion that Australian rules football is not that hard to play and that any developed athlete could learn to play the code with relative ease. Footy might then be painted as a fall-back sport for athletes who don't make the grade elsewhere. It could also create a further disconnection between the game's grass roots and the elite level. Why should a boy play his heart out for a club, rising through the pathways and representative football, struggling in second tier footy hoping for a breakthrough when 'elite' athletes from other codes and sports are waltzing in through the side door and getting paid squillions in the process?

Nonetheless, the code-switching of Folau and Hunt is a historic moment in Australian sport. Even if their shifts are complete flops the impact of their deci-



Kar-michael Hunt makes the switch from one football to another

sions and the way they were engineered will be lasting. They have raised the spectre of wholesale code-switchings based on the idea that certain players are such superb athletes that they could make it in any sport they chose.

Asked by Mark McLure on ABC Radio Grandstand (July 31, 2009) whether he felt there were other players in Rugby League who could make the shift, Hunt replied: "Oh mate, there's a lot of names that come to mind but I guess the obvi-

ous ones would be Billy Slater . . . down in Melbourne . . . well Greg Inglis . . .

I mean these guys are natural athletes, they can do what they want. They could go and play basketball or play soccer if they put their minds to it, they've got that much ability." Presumably Folau was also one of those on his mind.

As a soccer supporter this proposition has me vaguely excited. The prospect of League, Union and Australian rules players giving our game a fair suck of

the hydration bottle is appealing.

One long-standing frustration for soccer in Australia is that many of its tens of thousands of juniors end up playing (and supporting) other codes of football at the senior level – this drift might well be the game's fundamental problem in its ongoing efforts to establish itself on an equal footing in Australian sporting life.

At the elite level, AFL players like Adam Goodes and Brad Green were standout junior soccer players. Rugby League's Andrew Johns starred with the round ball as a junior in Newcastle. Preston Campbell loved playing soccer as a boy. Each of them left the game in their teens. It's a trend that leaves many supporters wondering if we might have had more success had those players and others stayed in the game. I know the words, "He would have been a great soccer player!" have often passed my lips.

Yet this intuitive sense needs to be countered with a good dose of realism. Whenever mature sportspeople have tried to cross codes, failure has more often been the result. Aside from the relatively easy shifts between the rugby codes, the odd Gaelic player going to Australian rules and players entering American football because of their astounding punting or place-kicking abili-

ties, there are few examples of successful football code-switching. In relation to soccer I can't think of one in recent times. In Melbourne, Glen Manton and Angelo Lekkas both tried out with South Melbourne Hellas when they left footy; both were unimpressive.

Needless to say, Karmichael Hunt's apparent belief in his and others' adaptability is newly found. In June 2008 he had this to say about his own skill levels:

"Basketball's my game," he says. "And soccer. I've been watching a lot of Manchester United. Cristiano Ronaldo is amazing. Amazing. I just enjoy watching the Premier League. I admire the skill those guys have. Their vision and touch. It's awesome to watch. I wish I had the skill to play soccer. I'd be in England playing there. Or basketball in America . . . But I never had to decide. I was born a rugby league player."

Hunt was speaking from the heart in 2008. In 2009 he was speaking through his wallet. I'm no great rap for Australian rules but even I can see how difficult the skill-set acquisition will be for men who were "born rugby league players". Perhaps time will prove me and many others wrong.

## Q&A | New Zealand Legend Wynton Rufer

# Raising the Rufer

By Alex Milic

Arguably the best footballer to ever come out of New Zealand, Wynton Rufer spent most of his professional career in Germany with Werder Bremen, winning a total of six titles. He also appeared for the New Zealand national team in its first FIFA World Cup participation, in 1982.

Making his debut for New Zealand on 16 October 1980 against Kuwait, not yet aged 18, scoring in a 2–2 draw for the 1982 FIFA World Cup qualifiers, Rufer quickly established himself in the All Whites side. Late in the following year, he netted the 2–1 winner in the decisive playoff against China, which propelled the nation to its first World Cup ever.

In the final stages in Spain, 19-year old Rufer was the youngest member of the squad, appearing in all three group losses, against Scotland, the Soviet Union and Brazil. In total, he gained 23 full caps, scoring 12 goals. From 1985–89, he only collected a total of five international appearances, namely due to the fact Zürich would not release him; from there until 1996, he did not appear for the national side at all.

What are your views on the recent success of the New Zealand national team?

Our whole country is excited about football now.

What do you think of the A League? And the impact of Wel-

ington Phoenix?

NZ must be very grateful for owner Terry Serepisos, and this team is very important for the overall game development of our small nation of 4 million.

How did you feel after taking (your goal against China) New Zealand to their first World Cup finals?

It was a long time ago, fortunately I scored lots more goals after that one!

Compare the 82' side with the current national team

I was the only pro back then, today the whole team are pro's.

You were part of a golden generation at Werder Bremen. Discuss your time with the club

I was very fortunate to be a part of the most successful era in Werder's history. We won the German Cup twice, Bundesliga Championships, Euro Cup Winners Cup in 6 seasons plus I was top scorer in the CL.

Most memorable moment?

All of the above plus 30 goals in 45 games in Europe.

How big of an influence was Otto Rehhagel?

He is still an influence today, we are close friends. I'll be at the Argentina game in a couple of weeks.

Are the right people running the NZ FA?

No.

What are NZ chances at the World Cup? Watch out for the All Whites, look at the Serbia game.

New Zealand in a World Cup for the first time. You played in all three games against powerhouses Brazil, Soviet Union and Scotland. Must have been special?

Every WC is special.

Are you still in contact with the players from the 82' side?

Yes. Steve Sumner, Sam Malcolmson.

You run a football academy, how's that been? What is the most important aspect of the academy and what do you hope to achieve?

This should have been run in conjunction with the national body but ...

We are growing rapidly since NZ qualified for SA. Up to that point we were working with 2000 kids per week, all year round. Within another 2 years this figure may double. 8 players (see website) have picked up contracts with pro clubs incl current All White Chris Wood.

Are you thinking about going into coaching again? Yes

Many fans in the country are taking notice of the great achievement of the football team. How important are supporters for the game in NZ?

The game is at an all time high.



Wynton Rufer with the German Cup in 1991

What is your biggest challenge at the moment? To set up Wynrs (winners) in Australia.

What was your fondest memory as a footballer?

Last week I played with Global Utd in Namibia. Raising awareness of climate change. Was great to take the field with former stars like Stefan Schwarz- Sweden, Tony Sanneh-USA, Jens Nowotny-Germany etc.

You have become very religious in the past few years. How do you see the world?

I'm a born again Christian. I work with kids because they are our future and need guidance and role models. Basically it's a biblical calling on my life.

What are you're roles as a FIFA ambassador? You have had the

opportunity to chat with World Footballs highly regarded men. Who stood out the most and what projects have been the most challenging?

Too many politics for my liking, I don't envy Sepp Blatter. Pele and Franz B are a different class.

What do you think of Australia's chances at the World Cup?

I hope they go through the group of death, all 4 teams are good enough.

How are you're two sons going with football?

Both are very talented, my oldest Caleb just finished his first year pro at Wehen Wiesbaden U-23's, Germany.

Thanks for spending time with GW.



# Knights storm to the top

By Jacob Kagi

**Western Knights stormed to the top of the Football West State Premier League with a 1-0 win over previous leaders Floreat Athena.**

Defender Stuart Ferguson got the winning goal for Knights shortly after half-time, with it enough to give it a three point gap at the top of the league with just eight games left.

Floreat has never beaten the Knights at Nash Field but will rue several missed chances, with the best of them coming in the early stages when Branimir Mikulic should have scored from close range, only for Knights goalkeeper Frazer Siddall's effort enough to keep him out.

Stuart Montgomery and Paul Van Dongen missed chances they should have scored for the eventual victors, but Ferguson scored from a David Micevski corner to give his side the lead.

Athena tried to push forward in the final minutes but were unable to gain control of the game through midfield, with it unable to create many good chances to draw level after Ferguson's goal.

Western Knights have won two straight against top five teams since its shock 3-2 loss to Cockburn the week before that, after winning 1-0 at Sorrento last week while the loss ended Floreat's three-game winning streak.

Sorrento SC continued Perth's miserable run, consolidating its top five spot with a 2-1 road win.

Perth's losing streak extended to four games with the result, with its bad stretch coinciding with long-serving coach Graham Normanton's absence, with him in the United Kingdom dealing with family issues indefinitely.

Adam Hayton gave Sorrento an early lead with a goal in the eighth minute, but Moran levelled for Perth just seven minutes later.

Billy Quinncroft turned out to be the hero for the Gulls, with his 49th minute strike enough to earn his side the three points.

Perth has now picked up just four points in the last seven rounds, coming in a draw at Swan in round nine and a home win over Armadale in round 10, seeing it drop four points off the league lead.

Sorrento's top five spot is relatively safe, with it boasting a four point gap over sixth placed Balcatta.

Inglewood United moved out of the relegation zone with an impressive 2-1 win against the out of form Balcatta.

Former National Training Centre youngster Jake Geddes put Inglewood ahead in the 10th minute and Ryan



Western Knights' David Price and Floreat Athena's Paul Vatishtas in the top of the table WA clash.

PHOTO: BEN FITZPATRICK

Clarke doubled his side's advantage in the 32nd minute

Matt Italiano gave Balcatta some hope with a 76th minute goal but United held on to move one point clear of the relegation zone. Balcatta hasn't won since round nine, picked up just one point in the five rounds since.

Cockburn City took Inglewood's place at the bottom of the league with a 1-1 draw to Swan United.

Former Perth Glory midfielder Adrian Webster put City ahead after 33 minutes but defender Trent Wood levelled for Swan 10 minutes later.

Swan remains just one point clear of Cockburn, with a three-way relegation battle between it, Cockburn and Inglewood likely to proceed until the final days of the season.

Stirling Lions moved into third spot

and within three points of the league lead with a 4-0 win at Armadale.

Mario Marcinko was the hero for Stirling with a hat-trick, putting the Lions ahead in the 10th minute before sealing the victory with a second in the 63rd minute and the final score in the 85th minute.

Ludovic Boi, who was one of the best on the park, scored Stirling's second in the 49th minute.

Mandurah City kept its hopes of a finals appearance alive with a 4-1 win over ECU Joondalup.

Mandurah moved four points clear of the drop zone and stayed within four points of the top five with its impressive win, which made it the first side to beat ECU since Perth did it in round four.

Johnstone put Mandurah ahead in the 27th minute and City appeared to be on top but Jamie Watt levelled for the

northern suburbs side after 65 minutes

Andy Brown put Mandurah back in front after 80 minutes, before Ivan Zuvela secured the points with an 84th minute goal from the penalty spot and Christian Paschkewitz scored the fourth in injury time.

Meanwhile, Perth Glory beat Gold Coast United 3-0 to continue its good pre-season form.

Just a few days after beating local First Division side Rockingham City 8-0, Glory put on another impressive performance in Newman, a small town in WA's north.

Jesse Makarounas scored for Perth, with the young striker pushing for a contract for the upcoming season with three goals in the two pre-season games so far.

Anthony Skorich and Mile Sterjovski scored the other goals for Perth.

## WA LADDER

|                     | P  | W | D | L | F  | A  | GD  | Pts |
|---------------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1 Western Knights   | 14 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 33 | 18 | 15  | 29  |
| 2 Floreat Athena    | 14 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 31 | 15 | 16  | 26  |
| 3 Stirling Lions    | 14 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 23 | 16 | 7   | 26  |
| 4 Perth SC          | 14 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 29 | 26 | 3   | 25  |
| 5 Sorrento          | 14 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 25 | 27 | -2  | 21  |
| 6 Balcatta          | 14 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 25 | 30 | -5  | 17  |
| 7 Mandurah City     | 14 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 25 | 31 | -6  | 17  |
| 8 Armadale          | 14 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 21 | 23 | -2  | 16  |
| 9 ECU Joondalup     | 14 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 30 | 33 | -3  | 16  |
| 10 Swan United      | 14 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 15 | 21 | -6  | 14  |
| 11 Inglewood United | 14 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 17 | 29 | -12 | 14  |
| 12 Cockburn City    | 14 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 21 | 26 | -5  | 13  |

## WA RESULTS

### PREMIER DIVISION

First Team  
Armadale 0  
Stirling Lions 4 (Marcinko 10, 63, 85, Boi 49);

Swan United 1 (Wood 43)  
Cockburn City 1 (Webster 33);

Western Knights 1 (Ferguson 51)  
Floreat Athena 0;

Inglewood United 2 (Geddes 10, Clarke 32)  
Balcatta 1 (Italiano 76);

Perth SC 1 (Moran 15)  
Sorrento 2 (Hayton 8, Quinncroft 49);

Mandurah City 4 (Johnstone 27, Brown 80, Zuvela 84p, Paschkewitz 93)  
ECU Joondalup 1 (Watt 65).

Reserves  
Armadale 3 Stirling Lions 3; Swan United 1 Cockburn City 2; Western Knights 4 Floreat Athena 2; Inglewood United 1 Balcatta 3; Perth SC 6 Sorrento 2; Mandurah City 0 ECU Joondalup 5.

Under 18's  
Armadale 1 Stirling Lions 2; Swan United 1 Cockburn City 1; Western Knights 3 Floreat Athena 3; Inglewood United 4 Balcatta 4; Perth SC 1 Sorrento 1; Mandurah City 0 ECU Joondalup 3.

### DIVISION ONE

First Team  
Bayswater City 2 (Catalano 38p, Starr 71) Bunbury Forum Force 3 (Rodgers 23, 56, Quinn 31); Queens Park 1 (Brown 84p) Fremantle Spirit 4 (Calub 27, Cameron 62, 75, Michael 70); Forrestfield United 7 (Costley 10, Burns 48, 85, 87, Hart 55, 61, Harold 65) Rockingham City 1 (Senior 15); Gosnells City 0 Wanneroo City 5 (Cairney 23, 38, Timmings 48, McDonald 52, McGahern 83); Dianella White Eagles 4 (Wignall 2, 89p, Radinovic 64, OG 68) Ashfield 3 (Cowbrough 38, McIlroy 41, 48).

Reserves  
Bayswater City 4 Bunbury Forum Force 2; Queens Park 0 Fremantle Spirit 6; Forrestfield United 5 Rockingham City 3; Gosnells City 1 Wanneroo City 4; Dianella White Eagles 5 Ashfield 2.

Under 18's  
Bayswater City 4 Bunbury Forum Force 1; Queens Park 3 Fremantle Spirit 6; Forrestfield United 3 Rockingham City 0 (FF); Gosnells City 3 Wanneroo City 0; Dianella White Eagles 3 Ashfield 0 (FF).

## NEXT ROUND

### Round 15

Sat 26 Jun 3PM ECU Joondalup v Western Knights ECU Joondalup

Sat 26 Jun 3PM Sorrento v Swan United Percy Doyle Reserve

Sat 26 Jun 3PM Inglewood United v Mandurah City The Clipsal Stadium

Sat 26 Jun 3PM Cockburn City v Armadale Dalmatinac Park

Sat 26 Jun 3PM Balcatta v Stirling Lions Grindelford Reserve

Sun 27 Jun 3PM Floreat Athena v Perth SC

E & D Litis Stadium

## DIVISION ONE LADDER

|                         | P  | W  | D | L  | F  | A  | GD  | Pts |
|-------------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1 Bunbury Forum Force   | 12 | 10 | 0 | 2  | 47 | 10 | 37  | 30  |
| 2 Bayswater City        | 12 | 9  | 0 | 3  | 43 | 16 | 27  | 27  |
| 3 Wanneroo City         | 12 | 8  | 1 | 3  | 28 | 15 | 13  | 22  |
| 4 Forrestfield United   | 12 | 8  | 0 | 4  | 34 | 19 | 15  | 21  |
| 5 Gosnells City         | 12 | 7  | 0 | 5  | 23 | 24 | -1  | 21  |
| 6 Dianella White Eagles | 12 | 6  | 2 | 4  | 28 | 26 | 2   | 20  |
| 7 Canning City          | 11 | 4  | 3 | 4  | 22 | 25 | -3  | 15  |
| 8 Fremantle SC          | 12 | 3  | 4 | 5  | 19 | 30 | -11 | 13  |
| 9 Morley-Windmills      | 11 | 3  | 3 | 5  | 14 | 22 | -8  | 12  |
| 10 Ashfield             | 12 | 2  | 1 | 9  | 27 | 39 | -12 | 7   |
| 11 Queens Park          | 12 | 2  | 0 | 10 | 16 | 43 | -27 | 6   |
| 12 Rockingham City      | 12 | 2  | 0 | 10 | 10 | 42 | -32 | 6   |

# Perth Glory Women heading to Newman

**A number of Perth Glory Women players, along with Football West staff headed to Newman last weekend.**

The trip coincided with the Perth Glory men's team taking on fellow Hyundai A-League side Gold Coast United in a pre-season friendly at Boomerang Oval on Saturday June 19.

Perth Glory W-League staff in attendance will be coach John Gibson, Westfield Matildas vice-captain Collette McCallum, last season's Most Glorious Player Shannon May and Westfield Young Matildas starlet Marianna Tabain.

Football West CEO Peter Hugg, Marketing & Communications Manager Ben Fitzpatrick, Referee Development Manager Eddie Lennie OAM, Referee Coordinator Mathew Cheeseman and Development Officer Cris Ola will also

ravelled to Newman.

The trip involved Perth Glory W-League and Football West staff visiting South Newman Primary School, Newman Primary School and Newman Senior High School to conduct clinics, which included coaching the High School team which will fly to Perth for QBE Country Week in October.

Football West's Referees staff will be supporting and coaching the local referees who took part in June 19's carnival which will involved teams from the Pilbara region such as Newman, Carnarvon, Tom Price and Port Headland.

The school visits took place on Friday June 18 and the carnival kicked off at 8am on Saturday June 19, in the lead up to the 7pm match between Perth Glory and Gold Coast United.

Following the match there was fireworks, a live band and the Australia

v Ghana FIFA World Cup match was shown live on the big screen at Boomerang Oval.

"Promoting the game in regional Western Australia is a key objective of Football West and we are delighted to be sending up representatives for this great occasion in Newman this weekend," said Football West CEO Peter Hugg.

"These sorts of initiatives will be continued in the future and it is an exciting time for the community of Newman to experience football at the highest level.

"It is a great opportunity for Football West to assist in promoting the sport to children who may otherwise not have the chance to be involved in it."



Westfield Matildas vice-captain and Perth Glory W-League's Collette McCallum in action during the 2010 AFC Women's Asian Cup Final .

PHOTO: PAUL LAU



# Semi Finalists for Tasmanian Statewide Cup decided

By Nektar Vavoulas

The Quarter Finals of the Milan Lakoseljac Statewide Cup saw three Southern Teams and One Northern Team advance to the Semi Finals.

Clarence United made the long trip to Devonport and came from two goals behind after 20 minutes to overcome the home side 3-2 in extra time. Chris McKenna and Kurt Howard put the Strikers ahead, but goals from Ben Hamlett just before half time, and a great individual effort from Luke Cripps, deep in the second half made it 2-2 at the end of regulation time. The winner came in the first period of extra time, Sam Cannamela meeting a free kick from Sam McIntyre to round off a tremendous comeback by the youthful Clarence side.

New Town Eagles played host to the in-form Riverside Olympic and took the lead in the first half when prolific goal scorer Adam McKeown headed the ball in off the upright from Alexander Leszczynski's excellent cross to give Eagles a 1-0 lead at the interval. They then went on to secure their passage through to the semi finals after further goals from Leszczynski and Jamie Vernon to ensure an excellent 3-0 victory and to make it a long and miserable road trip back for the Northerners.

The highly anticipated clash between the top two in the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League, South Hobart and Tilford Zebras, saw the Zebras take a 1-0 lead into the half time break after Ben Crosswell's fine finish after 20 minutes. However South Hobart showed why they are the benchmark in Tasmania scoring twice in the second half, substitute Andy Brennan getting the league leaders back on level terms and an own goal proved the difference in this tight contest.

Burnie United are the sole re-



Eagles Striker Adam McKeown netted again to give his side the lead against Riverside. PHOTO: WALTER PLESS

maining side from the north of the state after disposing of the Tasmanian Institute of Sport side. The home side broke the deadlock in the second half through player coach Sam Cox, and Chris Smith's finish gave them a 2-0 victory. Recent Football Superstar Final 15 evictee, Jeremy Walker, was prominent for the visitors.

The Semi Finals will be played on July 24.

The only match of the weekend in the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League saw the Glenorchy Knights draw level with 2nd place Tilford Zebras, after struggling to a 1-0 victory over lowly Taroon. The pre-arranged fixture was decided in the second half when Will Roberts' left wing cross was turned home by Knights striker Juma Barabara to give the home side their third victory in as many

| NORTH RESULTS                                |
|--|
| Riverside Olympic -v- Launceston United 10-0 |
| Ulverstone -v- Devonport City 0-2            |
| Burnie United -v- Launceston City 3-0        |
| Prospect Knights -v- Somerset 4-3            |

| NORTH LADDER      |    |   |   |    |    |    |     |
|-------------------|----|---|---|----|----|----|-----|
|                   | P  | W | D | L  | F  | A  | Pts |
| Northern Rangers  | 9  | 6 | 3 | 0  | 31 | 13 | 21  |
| Riverside Olympic | 10 | 6 | 2 | 2  | 33 | 13 | 20  |
| Devonport City    | 9  | 6 | 2 | 1  | 33 | 14 | 20  |
| Prospect Knights  | 10 | 6 | 1 | 3  | 35 | 26 | 19  |
| Ulverstone        | 10 | 5 | 1 | 4  | 29 | 22 | 16  |
| Burnie United     | 10 | 5 | 0 | 5  | 36 | 23 | 15  |
| Somerset          | 10 | 4 | 0 | 6  | 22 | 36 | 12  |
| Launceston City   | 10 | 1 | 1 | 8  | 19 | 30 | 4   |
| Launceston United | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 9  | 70 | 0   |

| NTH NEXT ROUND                       |
|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Round 12</b>                      |
| Saturday 26th June 2010              |
| Launceston United v Northern Rangers |
| Birch Avenue 02:30 PM                |
| Riverside Olympic v Prospect Knights |
| Windsor Park 02:30 PM                |
| Somerset v Burnie United             |
| Cardigan Street 02:30 PM             |
| Devonport City v Launceston City     |
| Valley Road 02:30 PM                 |
| Ulverstone v Bye                     |

| SOUTH RESULTS                                |
|--|
| Tilford Zebras 1 (H. Fagg)                   |
| D Olympia FC Warriors 0                      |
| Glenorchy Knights 3 (C. Smith 2 J. Fielding) |
| D Taroon 1 (D. Abbott)                       |
| Clarence United 2 (S. McIntyre B. Hamlett)   |
| D Kingborough Lions 1 (T. Pearce)            |
| South Hobart 1 (A. Brennan)                  |
| D New Town Eagles 0                          |

| SOUTH LADDER        |    |    |   |    |    |    |     |
|---------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|
|                     | P  | W  | D | L  | F  | A  | Pts |
| South Hobart        | 14 | 13 | 1 | 0  | 44 | 9  | 40  |
| Tilford Zebras      | 14 | 8  | 3 | 3  | 36 | 28 | 27  |
| Glenorchy Knights   | 13 | 7  | 3 | 3  | 30 | 22 | 24  |
| Clarence United     | 14 | 5  | 4 | 5  | 29 | 30 | 19  |
| Kingborough Lions   | 14 | 5  | 3 | 6  | 18 | 24 | 18  |
| New Town Eagles     | 14 | 3  | 4 | 7  | 25 | 29 | 13  |
| Taroona             | 13 | 2  | 2 | 9  | 19 | 38 | 8   |
| Olympia FC Warriors | 14 | 0  | 4 | 10 | 13 | 34 | 4   |

| STH NEXT ROUND                      |
|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Round 15</b>                     |
| Friday 25th June                    |
| Tilford Zebras v South Hobart       |
| KGV Park 8pm                        |
| Saturday 26th June                  |
| Kingborough Lions v New Town Eagles |
| Lightwood Park 2.30pm               |
| Clarence United v Glenorchy Knights |
| Wentworth Park 2 6.30pm             |
| Sunday 27th June                    |
| Taroon v Hobart Olympia             |
| Kelvedon Park 2.30pm                |





Andy Brennan netted the equaliser for South Hobart. PHOTO: WALTER PLESS


matches. A full round of matches were played on the Queen's Birthday holiday. The Knights travelled to Taroon and came away with a 3-1 victory, South Hobart overcame a plucky New Town 1-0. Zebras continued the misery for the winless Olympia Warriors beating them 1-0 whilst Clarence United defeated Kingborough Lions 2-1. After two complete rounds

of matches, South Hobart continue on their merry way leading the Knights and Zebras by 13 points. Clarence United and Kingborough Lions are separated by 1 point in their quest for the fourth finals spot and bottom placed relegation favourite Olympia are 4 points behind Taroon.

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# FFV Men's Metropolitan League & Women's Results

goalweekly.com



MENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE NORTH-WEST: Ascot Vale 0 Northern Utd 1 (M Maric) (HT: 0-1), Oak Park 3 (H Unal, G Celtic 2) Altona North 3 (J Bonidin, A Whatmore, D Byrnes) (HT: 1-1), Heidelberg Stars 0 Light Utd 0 (HT: 0-0), Keon Park 1 (T Roussalis) Tullamarine Jets 4 (M Tankir, A Koruklu, H Aksoy, H Azer) (HT: 1-0), Moreland Wolves 1 (P Richman) Yarra Jets 0 (HT: 0-0),Reserves: Ascot Vale 0 Northern Utd 5 (HT: -), Oak Park 4 Altona North 2 (HT: -), Heidelberg Stars 1 Light Utd 1 (HT: -), Keon Park 3 Tullamarine Jets 4 (A Turkmen 2, M Emer, M Neshabe) (HT: -), Moreland Wolves 3 Yarra Jets 1 (HT: -)

MENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE SOUTH-EAST: Dandenong Warriors 1 (T Zaire) Endeavour Hills 0 (HT: 0-0), Ringwood City 2 (E Frans, Own Goal) Harrisfield Hurricanes 4 (D Mayne, A Bucci 2, R Pietrosanto) (HT: 2-2), St Kevins 3 (C Beggs, J Ferraro, A Fehervari) Parkmore 6 (A Jovanovic 2, R Mangoni 2) (HT: 1-3), Bye Old Mentonians (HT: -), Middle Park FC 3 (M Roberts 2, M Furness) Caulfield Grammarians 0 (HT: 1-0), Reserves: Dandenong Warriors 1 Endeavour Hills 0 (HT: -), Ringwood City 3 Harrisfield Hurricanes 2 (HT: -), St Kevins 0 Parkmore 3 (HT: -), Bye Old Mentonians (HT: -), Middle Park FC 7 Caulfield Grammarians 3 (HT: -)

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 1: Whitehorse Utd 1 (S Lewis) Bayswater Strikers 3 (AE McKillen 2, E Murray-Bartlett) (HT: 1-0), South Springvale 5 (M Tartaglia 2, M Batinic) Brighton 0 (HT: 2-0), Monbulk 2 (AM Whetham, MA Deboer) South Yarra 0 (HT: -), Doncaster Rovers Ballarat & District (HT: -), Reserves: Whitehorse Utd 1 Bayswater Strikers 3 (HT: -), South Springvale 1 Brighton 1 (HT: -), Monbulk 1 South Yarra 0 (HT: -), Doncaster Rovers Ballarat Lady Devils (HT: -)

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 2 NORTH-WEST: Western Suburbs 1 (K Pantelidis) La Trobe University 3 (SA Harris, NE Garner 2) (HT: 0-1), North Geelong Warriors 2 (A Crawford, D Marinico) Fawkner 0 (HT: 2-0), Western Eagles 2 (B Keane, A Kezovska) Cairnlea 2 (T Hussein, K Theodorou) (HT: 1-1), Whittlesea Ranges FC Melbourne Bears (HT: -), FC Bulleen Lions Darebin Falcons (HT: -)

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 2 SOUTH-EAST: Ashburton 3 (C De Luca, E Meallin 2) Noble Park 3 (C Keefe) (HT: 2-0), North Caulfield 0 Albert Park 7 (S Baeck 2, P Kiddle, TL Colvin, H Saur, K Searle) (HT: 0-2), Mooroolbark 3 Monash University 2 (HT: 2-1), Southern Suburbs 1 (T Moutafis) Berwick City 0 (HT: 0-0), Sandringham 0 Mornington 0 (HT: 0-0)

WOEMSN STATE LEAGUE DIV 3 NORTH-WEST: Maribymong Utd 3 Diamond Valley Utd 6 (HT: 1-4), Melton 0 Yarra Jets 5 (HT: 0-5), Kyneton District 0 Keilor Park 12 (M Emond 4, A Djordjeovich, H Hogarth 4) (HT: 0-8), Old Carey 0 Eltham Redbacks 5 (KM Hodgson 3, L Brazzale, L Peric) (HT: 0-2), Brunswick Zebras 1 (N Italiano) Sunshine George Cross 1 (C Sanhueza) (HT: 0-1)

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 3 SOUTH-EAST: Langwarrin 1 (T Wallace) Knox City 1 (A Georgiou) (HT: 1-1), Seaford Utd 1 (A Piper) South Melbourne 0 (HT: 1-0), Ashburton 12 East Bentleigh 0 (HT: -), Croydon City Arrows 0 Endeavour Utd 2 (HT: 0-1), Box Hill Inter 15 (S Burton 2, N Exon 3) Beaumaris 0 (HT: 8-0)

WOMENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE NORTH-WEST: Fitzroy City 9 (P Stephenson) Northern Roosters 0 (HT: 3-0), Brunswick Zebras 4 (EK Johns 2, R King 2) Melbourne Knights 2 (HT: 3-1), Mitchell Rangers 1 Brunswick City 2 (HT: -), Watsonia Heights Yarra Jets (HT: -), Tullamarine Jets 2 (S Kilinc) Plenty Valley Lions 0 (HT: 1-0)

WOMENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE SOUTH-EAST: Kingston City 3 Skye Utd 0 (HT: -), Croydon City Arrows 0 Berwick City 3 (HT: -), Mooroolbark Monash University (HT: -), Sandringham 3 (G Pout 2) Endeavour Hills 1 (HT: 1-1), Eltham Redbacks Dandenong City (HT: -)

WOMENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE CENTRAL: Sandringham 5 Bayside Argonauts 4 (HT: 5-2), Sydenham Park 10 (M Bogoevska 5, C Dimitrievska, S Bojkovski) Monash University 1 (J Pettigrew) (HT: 3-1), Swinburne University WSC Albert Park (HT: -), Whittlesea Zebras 2 (G Grande 2) Elwood City 1 (J Porter) (HT: 1-1), Uni. of Melbourne Port Melbourne (HT: -)

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 1: Kyneton District 1 (S Harman) Cleeland Utd 1 (HT: 0-1), La Trobe University Doveton (HT: -), Monash University Juventus Old Boys 5 (HT: -), Southern Suburbs 2 Altona Lions 5 (HT: 1-2), Marcellin Old Collegians South Yarra (HT: -)

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 2 NORTH-WEST: Melbourne University Keilor Park (HT: -), Moreland City Essendon Utd (HT: -), La Trobe University 1 Glenroy 0 (HT: 0-0), Mitchell Rangers Upfield (HT: -), Brunswick City 9 Collingwood City 1 (HT: -)

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 2 SOUTH-EAST: Nunawad-

ing City FC Bayside Argonauts (HT: -), Old Camberwell Grammar Old Melburnians (HT: -), Boroondara Eagles 1 Central Park AC Malvern 4 (HT: -), Caulfield Grammarians 3 South Yarra 1 (HT: -), Old Scotch 1 Berwick City 2 (HT: -)

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 3 NORTH-WEST: Plenty Valley Lions 2 Lalor 1 (HT: -), Melton 1 La Trobe University 0 (HT: -), Uni. of Melbourne 0 Northcote City 5 (HT: -), Kyneton District 3 (N Matricardi, O Shipstone 2) Melbourne Lions 0 (HT: 2-0), Hoppers Crossing 2 Werribee City 2 (HT: -)

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 3 SOUTH-EAST: Riversdale 3 Old Haileybury 2 (HT: -), Old Trinity Grammarians Bayside Argonauts (HT: -), Melbourne University Brandon Park (HT: -), RMIT Redbacks Central Park Rangers (HT: -), Monash University Old Melburnians (HT: -)

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 4 NORTH-WEST: Eltham Redback FC Cairnlea (HT: -), Kyneton District 1 (S Bennett) Altona City 2 (HT: 1-1), Uni. of Melbourne Diamond Valley Utd (HT: -), Watsonia Heights Williamstown (HT: -), Bye Brimbank Stallions (HT: -)

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 4 SOUTH-EAST: Monash University Beaumaris (HT: -), RMIT Redbacks 0 Elwood City 4 (HT: -), Old Scotch Ashburton (HT: -), Marcellin Eagles South Yarra (HT: -), Old Melburnians 2 Caulfield Cobras 3 (HT: -)

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 5 NORTH-WEST: Kyneton District 0 Melbourne Bears 6 (HT: 0-2), Heidelberg Utd Melbourne University (HT: -), Mitchell Rangers Moreland Wolves (HT: -), Altona City 4 Keon Park 0 (HT: -), Uni. of Melbourne North Sunshine Eagles (HT: -)

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 5 SOUTH-EAST: Frankston Pines 1 East Bentleigh 3 (HT: -), Middle Park FC 5 Bunyip & District Soccer Club 1 (HT: -), Keysborough Bye (HT: -), Old Carey 1 Old Brighton Grammarians 4 (HT: -), Dandenong Thunder Eltham Redback FC (HT: -)

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIVISION 6: Moreland Utd 2 Beaumaris 2 (HT: -), Old Scotch Bye (HT: -), Springvale City Carlton Youth (HT: -), Sandringham City 1 6 Uni. of Melbourne 0 (HT: -), Sandringham City 2 1 Brimbank Stallions 5 (HT: -), Epping City Western Eagles (HT: -)

MENS MASTERS NORTH-WEST: Doc Utd Whittlesea Utd (HT: -), Fitzroy City Moreland City (HT: -), Avondale Heights Whittlesea Zebras (HT: -), Banyule City Heidelberg Utd (HT: -)

MENS MASTERS SOUTH-EAST: White Star Dandenong Southern Suburbs (HT: -), Doveton Kingston City (HT: -), North Caulfield Bayside Argonauts (HT: -), Glen Waverley Bye (HT: -)

MENS MASTERS CENTRAL: Caulfield Cobras 1 Collingwood City 3 (HT: -), Bye Ashburton (HT: -), Middle Park FC 1 Eastern Lions 2 (HT: -), Beaumaris 0 Juventus Old Boys 1 (HT: -), Brighton 1 South Yarra 2 (HT: -)

| Mens             | Metropolitan | League | North-West |   |   |   |          |
|------------------|--------------|--------|------------|---|---|---|----------|
|                  |              |        | P          | W | D | L | F A PT   |
| Heidelberg Stars |              |        | 10         | 6 | 3 | 1 | 19 21 21 |
| Tullamarine Jets |              |        | 10         | 6 | 2 | 2 | 23 13 20 |
| Moreland Wolves  |              |        | 10         | 6 | 2 | 2 | 20 11 20 |
| Altona North     |              |        | 10         | 4 | 5 | 1 | 22 15 11 |
| Light Utd        |              |        | 10         | 3 | 3 | 4 | 16 18 12 |
| Oak Park         |              |        | 10         | 4 | 5 | 1 | 24 14 11 |
| Yarra Jets       |              |        | 10         | 2 | 3 | 5 | 14 20 9  |
| Northern Utd     |              |        | 10         | 2 | 2 | 6 | 11 16 8  |
| Ascot Vale       |              |        | 10         | 1 | 3 | 6 | 8 18 6   |
| Keon Park        |              |        | 10         | 1 | 2 | 7 | 15 35 5  |

| Mens             | Metropolitan | League | North-West |   |   |    |          |
|------------------|--------------|--------|------------|---|---|----|----------|
|                  |              |        | P          | W | D | L  | F A PT   |
| Light Utd        |              |        | 10         | 7 | 2 | 1  | 37 17 23 |
| Heidelberg Stars |              |        | 10         | 6 | 4 | 0  | 32 19 22 |
| Moreland Wolves  |              |        | 10         | 6 | 2 | 2  | 27 16 20 |
| Northern Utd     |              |        | 10         | 6 | 1 | 3  | 28 19 19 |
| Tullamarine Jets |              |        | 10         | 5 | 3 | 2  | 28 16 18 |
| Oak Park         |              |        | 10         | 4 | 1 | 5  | 20 23 13 |
| Yarra Jets       |              |        | 10         | 3 | 2 | 5  | 23 24 10 |
| Ascot Vale       |              |        | 10         | 2 | 2 | 6  | 12 27 8  |
| Altona North     |              |        | 10         | 2 | 1 | 7  | 15 30 6  |
| Keon Park        |              |        | 10         | 0 | 0 | 10 | 12 43 0  |

| Mens                   | Metropolitan | League | South-East |   |   |   |          |
|------------------------|--------------|--------|------------|---|---|---|----------|
|                        |              |        | P          | W | D | L | F A PT   |
| Dandenong Warriors     |              |        | 9          | 6 | 2 | 1 | 17 11 20 |
| Middle Park FC         |              |        | 8          | 5 | 2 | 1 | 23 11 17 |
| Harrisfield Hurricanes |              |        | 8          | 3 | 4 | 1 | 19 14 13 |
| Old Mentonians         |              |        | 7          | 3 | 3 | 1 | 16 10 12 |
| Parkmore               |              |        | 8          | 4 | 0 | 4 | 13 12 12 |
| Ringwood City          |              |        | 9          | 3 | 2 | 4 | 14 19 11 |
| Caulfield Grammarians  |              |        | 9          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 14 18 9  |
| Endeavour Hills        |              |        | 9          | 1 | 2 | 6 | 10 18 5  |
| St Kevins              |              |        | 9          | 1 | 2 | 6 | 16 29 5  |

| Mens                   | Metropolitan | League | North-West |   |   |   |          |
|------------------------|--------------|--------|------------|---|---|---|----------|
|                        |              |        | P          | W | D | L | F A PT   |
| Dandenong Warriors     |              |        | 9          | 6 | 2 | 1 | 17 11 20 |
| Middle Park FC         |              |        | 8          | 5 | 2 | 1 | 23 11 17 |
| Harrisfield Hurricanes |              |        | 8          | 3 | 4 | 1 | 19 14 13 |
| Old Mentonians         |              |        | 7          | 3 | 3 | 1 | 16 10 12 |
| Parkmore               |              |        | 8          | 4 | 0 | 4 | 13 12 12 |
| Ringwood City          |              |        | 9          | 3 | 2 | 4 | 14 19 11 |
| Caulfield Grammarians  |              |        | 9          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 14 18 9  |
| Endeavour Hills        |              |        | 9          | 1 | 2 | 6 | 10 18 5  |
| St Kevins              |              |        | 9          | 1 | 2 | 6 | 16 29 5  |

| Mens                   | Metropolitan | League | South-East |   |   |   |          |
|------------------------|--------------|--------|------------|---|---|---|----------|
|                        |              |        | P          | W | D | L | F A PT   |
| Dandenong Warriors     |              |        | 9          | 6 | 2 | 1 | 17 11 20 |
| Middle Park FC         |              |        | 8          | 5 | 2 | 1 | 23 11 17 |
| Harrisfield Hurricanes |              |        | 8          | 3 | 4 | 1 | 19 14 13 |
| Old Mentonians         |              |        | 7          | 3 | 3 | 1 | 16 10 12 |
| Parkmore               |              |        | 8          | 4 | 0 | 4 | 13 12 12 |
| Ringwood City          |              |        | 9          | 3 | 2 | 4 | 14 19 11 |
| Caulfield Grammarians  |              |        | 9          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 14 18 9  |
| Endeavour Hills        |              |        | 9          | 1 | 2 | 6 | 10 18 5  |
| St Kevins              |              |        | 9          | 1 | 2 | 6 | 16 29 5  |

ing City 3, Richmond 9 Mitchell Rangers 0, Bye Melbourne Lions , South Yarra 2 Heidelberg Stars 3, Sporting Whittlesea 2 Yarra Jets 1 2, Bundoora Utd Yarra Jets 2

Boys Central - North 13 A: South Melbourne Bundoora Utd , Whittlesea Ranges FC 7 Richmond 0, Epping City Bye , Alphington South Yarra

Boys Central - North 13 B: Mitchell Rangers Eltham Redback FC, FC Clifton Hill 2 Port Melbourne 3, Plenty Valley Lions 0 Maribymong Greens 13, Malvern City 3 Heidelberg Stars 0, Watsonia Heights Yarra Jets 1 , Yarraville Glory Whittlesea Ranges FC, Bundoora Utd Yarra Jets 2

Boys Central - North 14 A: Preston Lions 3 Yarra Jets 5, South Melbourne Bundoora Utd , Diamond Valley Utd Richmond 1 , Northcote City 1 Richmond 2 5

Boys Central - North 14 B: Richmond 5 Alphington 3, Whittlesea Ranges FC 9 Plenty Valley Lions 1, Watsonia Heights Heidelberg Stars , Bundoora Utd Heidelberg Utd , Keon Park South Yarra

Boys Central - North 15 A: Bye Whittlesea Ranges FC , Preston Lions 2 Richmond 1, South Melbourne Bundoora Utd , FC Clifton Hill 3 Heidelberg Stars 0, Banyule City Yarra Jets

Boys Central - North 15 B: Richmond 4 Malvern City 1, Diamond Valley Utd 1 Maribymong Greens , Diamond Valley Utd 2 3 Melbourne Lions 2, Alphington 0 Northcote City 7, Bundoora Utd South Melbourne

Boys Central - North 16 A: Richmond 2 3 Whittlesea Ranges FC 0, FC Clifton Hill 0 South Melbourne 4, Epping City 2 Preston Lions 1, Bye Richmond 1 , Malvern City Bundoora Utd

Boys Central - North 16 B: Yarraville Glory Yarraville Glory , Bundoora Utd Heidelberg Utd , Yarra Jets 5 Richmond 3

Boys East - North East 12 A: FC Bulleen Lions 13 Glen Waverley 1, Ashburton 0 Monash City 3, Box Hill Inter 4 Eastern Lions 0, Doncaster Rovers 1 Knox City 1

Boys East - North East 12 B: Manningham 0 FC Bulleen

Mens Metropolitan League South-East Reserves  
P W D L F A PT  
8 7 1 0 31 6 22  
Ringwood City 9 6 2 1 21 10 20  
Dandenong Warriors 9 6 1 2 24 18 19  
Endeavour Hills 9 4 0 5 11 15 12  
Parkmore 9 3 2 4 14 14 11  
St Kevins 9 2 4 3 9 16 10  
Old Mentonians 8 2 2 4 15 26 8  
Harrisfield Hurricanes 8 2 1 5 12 13 7  
Caulfield Grammarians 9 0 1 8 14 33 1

Womens State League Div 1  
P W D L F A PT  
8 6 1 1 26 7 19  
Doncaster Rovers 8 6 1 1 24 6 19  
Bundoora Utd 8 6 0 2 30 10 18  
Uni. of Melbourne 8 6 0 2 25 13 18  
Bayswater Strikers 9 6 0 2 28 21 18  
Monbulk 9 4 2 3 14 11 14  
South Springvale 9 3 0 6 17 19 9  
Whitehorse Utd 9 2 2 5 18 26 8  
Brighton 9 1 0 8 7 37 3  
South Yarra 9 0 0 9 4 43 0

Womens State League Div 2  
P W D L F A PT  
8 8 0 0 34 0 24  
Doncaster Rovers 8 7 0 1 32 4 21  
Uni. of Melbourne 8 4 3 1 26 10 15  
Bayswater Strikers 9 5 0 4 29 21 15  
South Springvale 9 4 2 3 15 14 14  
Monbulk 9 3 3 3 13 14 12  
Brighton 9 1 5 3 9 21 8  
Whitehorse Utd 9 2 1 6 11 24 7  
Ballarat Lady Devils 8 1 1 6 5 17 4  
South Yarra 9 0 1 8 3 52 1

Womens State League Div 3  
P W D L F A PT  
9 8 0 1 32 6 24  
Cairnlea 9 7 2 0 38 7 23  
Western Eagles 9 6 1 2 33 8 19  
FC Bulleen Lions 8 5 2 1 14 3 17  
North Geelong Warriors 9 4 1 4 21 9 12  
Fawkner 9 3 2 4 16 20 10  
Western Suburbs 9 3 1 5 11 22 10  
Darebin Falcons 8 2 1 5 11 24 7  
Whittlesea Ranges FC 8 0 0 8 6 38 0  
Melbourne Bears 8 0 0 8 1 46 0

Womens State League Div 4  
P W D L F A PT  
9 6 3 0 23 6 21  
Albert Park 9 5 1 3 28 12 16  
Southern Suburbs 9 4 2 3 14 14 14  
Berwick City 9 4 1 4 26 16 13  
Noble Park 9 4 1 4 22 23 13  
Ashburton 9 3 3 3 13 15 12  
Mornington 9 3 3 3 11 14 12  
Mooroolbark 9 3 2 4 11 18 11  
North Caulfield 9 2 1 6 13 36 7  
Monash University 9 1 3 5 14 21 6

Womens State League Div 5  
P W D L F A PT  
9 9 0 0 64 14 27  
Yarra Jets 9 7 1 1 31 13 22  
Brunswick Zebras 9 5 3 1 19 10 18  
Diamond Valley Utd 9 5 1 3 27 16 16  
Eltham Redbacks 9 4 1 4 22 17 13  
Sunshine George Cross 9 4 1 4 20 17 13  
Melton 9 3 1 5 11 25 10  
Old Carey 9 3 0 6 18 34 9  
Kyneton District 9 1 0 8 8 38 3  
Maribymong Utd 9 0 0 9 7 43 0

Womens State League Div 6  
P W D L F A PT  
9 8 1 0 50 4 25  
Box Hill Inter 9 7 1 1 45 8 22  
South Melbourne 9 5 2 2 34 17 17  
Langwarrin 9 4 4 1 32 9 16  
Croydon City Arrows 9 5 1 3 22 13 16  
Knox City 9 2 3 4 14 21 9  
Endeavour Utd 9 3 0 6 18 35 9  
Ashburton 9 2 1 6 24 30 7  
Beaumaris 9 1 1 7 18 57 4  
East Bentleigh 9 1 0 8 7 70 3

Womens Metropolitan League North-West  
P W D L F A PT  
9 9 0 0 64 14 27  
Yarra Jets 9 7 1 1 31 13 22  
Brunswick Zebras 9 5 3 1 19 10 18  
Diamond Valley Utd 9 5 1 3 27 16 16  
Eltham Redbacks 9 4 1 4 22 17 13  
Sunshine George Cross 9 4 1 4 20 17 13  
Melton 9 3 1 5 11 25 10  
Old Carey 9 3 0 6 18 34 9  
Kyneton District 9 1 0 8 8 38 3  
Maribymong Utd 9 0 0 9 7 43 0

Boys East - North East 12 C: Bye Boronia , FC Bulleen Lions 2 DOC Utd 0, Doncaster Rovers Sherbrooke Rangers , Eltham Redback FC Knox Utd , Knox City 2 Waverley Victory 0

Boys East - North East 12 D: Bye Glen Waverley , Oakleigh Cannons 2 Croydon City Arrows 3, Ashburton 2 Ashburton 7, Boroondara Eagles 2 East Kew 1, Whitehorse Utd 0 Riversdale 1

Boys East - North East 12 E: Montrose Ashburton , Bunyip & District Soccer Club Mooroolbark , Bye Boronia

Boys East - North East 13 A: Knox City 4 Doncaster Rovers 0, Eastern Lions FC Bulleen Lions , Knox Utd 0 Box Hill Inter 3, Monash City 6 Ashburton 0, Whitehorse Utd 7 Oakleigh Cannons 1

Boys East - North East 13 B: Box Hill Inter 4 Brandon Park 3, Croydon City Arrows 0 FC Bulleen Lions 4, Doncaster Rovers 1 Boroondara Eagles 2, Eltham Redback FC 1 Nunawading City FC 4, Ringwood City Sherbrooke Rangers

Boys East - North East 13 C: Oakleigh Cannons 4 Croydon City Arrows 0, FC Bulleen Lions DOC Utd , Manningham Whitehorse Utd , Ashburton 1 Mooroolbark 1, Boroondara Eagles 0 Glen Waverley 6, Glen Waverley 1 Knox City 2, Waverley Wanderers 0 Cardinia Utd 1

Boys East - North East 14 A: Sherbrooke Rangers 0 Oakleigh Cannons 4, Riversdale 2 FC Bulleen Lions 1, Knox City 4 Doncaster Rovers 2, Monash City Ashburton , Nunawading City FC 0 Box Hill Inter 2

Boys East - North East 14 B: Boroondara Eagles 4 Doncaster Rovers 4, Croydon City Arrows 1 Glen Waverley 2, Mooroolbark 0 Oakleigh Cannons 0, Whitehorse Utd 5 FC Bulleen Lions 1

Boys East - North East 14 C: Eastern Lions 7 Croydon City Arrows 1, Boroondara Eagles 4 Doncaster Rovers 0, Glen Waverley 1 Eltham Redback FC 3,

Yarra Jets 8 1 0 7 11 53 3  
Northern Roosters 9 0 0 9 2 77 0

Womens Metropolitan League South-East  
P W D L F A PT  
9 9 0 0 59 7 27  
Berwick City 7 6 0 1 43 10 18  
Kingston City 9 5 2 2 19 13 16  
Endeavour Hills 9 5 1 3 35 9 15  
Eltham Redbacks 8 3 2 3 9 15 11  
Skye Utd 9 3 1 5 8 33 10  
Mooroolbark 7 2 2 3 10 16 8  
Croydon City Arrows 9 2 1 6 13 23 7  
Sandringham 9 2 1 6 11 48 7  
Monash University 8 0 0 8 2 35 0

Womens Metropolitan League Central  
P W D L F A PT  
9 8 0 1 39 9 24  
Sandringham 9 7 1 1 22 12 12  
Whittlesea Zebras 9 6 2 1 22 7 20  
Bayside Argonauts 9 4 0 5 25 25 12  
Monash University 9 3 2 4 10 20 11  
Uni. of Melbourne 8 3 1 4 12 13 10  
Port Melbourne 8 3 1 4 7 15 10  
Elwood City 9 2 1 6 10 17 7  
Albert Park 8 1 2 5 4 20 5  
Swinburne University WSC 8 0 2 6 6 19 -1

Mens Thirds League Div 1  
P W D L F A PT  
9 7 2 0 26 8 23  
Cleeland Utd 9 7 2 0 26 8 23  
Kyneton District 9 5 3 1 22 8 18  
Altona Lions 9 6 0 3 26 20 18  
South Yarra 8 5 2 1 34 7 17  
Marcellin Old Collegians 8 4 2 2 21 18 14  
La Trobe University 8 3 0 5 28 31 9  
Doveton 8 2 2 4 11 16 8  
Juventus Old Boys 9 2 2 5 18 32 8  
Monash University 9 1 1 7 14 26 4  
Southern Suburbs 9 0 2 7 7 41 2

Mens Thirds League Div 2 North-West  
P W D L F A PT  
8 6 2 0 30 2 30  
Mitchell Rangers 9 6 1 2 14 10 19  
La Trobe University 8 5 3 0 22 7 18  
Brunswick City 9 5 0 4 20 15 15  
Glenroy 8 3 2 3 8 9 9  
Keilor Park 8 2 2 4 10 12 8  
Moreland City 8 2 1 5 17 19 7  
Collingwood City 8 1 2 5 11 24 5  
Upfield 8 1 0 7 6 35 3  
Essendon Utd

Mens Thirds League Div 3 North-West  
P W D L F A PT  
9 6 2 1 27 20 20  
Caulfield Grammarians 8 6 1 1 20 6 19  
Bayside Argonauts 9 5 3 1 19 7 18  
South Yarra 8 3 4 1 16 13 13  
Old Melburnians 9 4 1 4 14 16 13  
Boroondara Eagles 9 4 0 5 20 25 12  
Berwick City 8 2





|                  |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|
| Knox Utd         | 9 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 14 | 10 |
| Eastern Lions    | 8 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 12 | 4  |
| Doncaster Rovers | 9 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 25 | 4  |
| Oakleigh Cannons | 9 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 35 | 1  |



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Seniors

STATE NORTH WEST 2

Reserves

Whittlesea Ranges 0 Werribee City 0, Port Melbourne 0

Banyule City 1 (N Papadopoulos), Ballarat Red Devils 2

(ML Leslie S Winch) Geelong Rangers 0, Brunswick City 3

(A Azzam G Defeo Own Goal) Altona City 2 (C Cullen S Cudrig),

Sydenham Park 0 Moreland City 1 (R Dinse),

Williamstown 0 Altona East Phoenix 0

Whittlesea Ranges 2 Werribee City 0, Port Melbourne 4

Banyule City 0, Ballarat Red Devils 1 Geelong Rangers 3,

Brunswick City 1 Altona City 2, Sydenham Park 1

Moreland City 2, Williamstown 2 Altona East Phoenix 1

|                     | P  | W | D | L | F  | A  | PT |                     | P  | W | D | L | F  | A  | PT |
|---------------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|----|---------------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Port Melbourne      | 10 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 14 | 5  | 21 | Whittlesea Ranges   | 10 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 28 | 9  | 28 |
| Whittlesea Ranges   | 10 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 18 | 10 | 21 | Moreland City       | 10 | 8 | 0 | 2 | 24 | 17 | 24 |
| Brunswick City      | 10 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 17 | 11 | 19 | Port Melbourne      | 10 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 17 | 10 | 20 |
| Williamstown        | 10 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 7  | 18 | Altona City         | 10 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 16 | 10 | 19 |
| Werribee City       | 10 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 12 | 15 | Ballarat Red Devils | 10 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 21 | 18 | 19 |
| Altona East Phoenix | 10 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 16 | 10 | 14 | Brunswick City      | 10 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 18 | 17 | 14 |
| Moreland City       | 10 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 16 | 16 | 13 | Sydenham Park       | 10 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 16 | 19 | 11 |
| Altona City         | 10 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 14 | 16 | 12 | Werribee City       | 10 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 16 | 18 | 9  |
| Banyule City        | 10 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 12 | 14 | 10 | Banyule City        | 10 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 10 | 13 | 9  |
| Ballarat Red Devils | 10 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 10 | 16 | 8  | Williamstown        | 10 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 8  | 16 | 8  |
| Geelong Rangers     | 10 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 6  | 20 | 7  | Geelong Rangers     | 10 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 10 | 27 | 7  |
| Sydenham Park       | 10 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 5  | 14 | 6  | Altona East Phoenix | 10 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 9  | 19 | 3  |

Seniors

STATE NORTH WEST 3

Reserves

Geelong 1 (M Gorosito) Hume Utd 2 (E Koc A Ikiz), Cairnlea 5 (E Garcia) Lalor 0, Keilor Park 1 (B Malaga) Westgate 0, La Trobe University 3 (D Guadagno D Greening 2) Maribyrnong Greens 2 (A Mesinovic A Jamali), Sunbury Utd 4 (V Ierardo P Shipp Z Romanovski) Essendon Utd 2 (P Devuono), Yarraville Glory 1 (A Stojevski) Melbourne University 0

Geelong 4 Hume Utd 1, Cairnlea 4 Lalor 3, Keilor Park 6 Westgate 0, La Trobe University 6 Maribyrnong Greens 1, Sunbury Utd 1 Essendon Utd 1, Yarraville Glory 0 Melbourne University 4

|                      | P  | W | D | L | F  | A  | PT |                      | P  | W | D | L | F  | A  | PT |
|----------------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|----|----------------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Sunbury Utd          | 10 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 25 | 15 | 20 | Sunbury Utd          | 10 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 26 | 11 | 26 |
| Yarraville Glory     | 10 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 21 | 12 | 20 | Cairnlea             | 10 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 32 | 21 | 21 |
| Hume Utd             | 10 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 17 | 14 | 19 | La Trobe University  | 10 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 32 | 19 | 18 |
| Keilor Park          | 10 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 15 | 12 | 18 | Keilor Park          | 10 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 31 | 18 | 18 |
| Geelong              | 10 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 20 | 16 | 17 | Melbourne University | 10 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 22 | 16 | 13 |
| Westgate             | 10 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 17 | 12 | 15 | Essendon Utd         | 10 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 22 | 22 | 13 |
| La Trobe University  | 10 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 21 | 12 | 14 | Geelong              | 10 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 18 | 26 | 13 |
| Cairnlea             | 10 | 4 | 0 | 6 | 21 | 16 | 12 | Lalor                | 10 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 23 | 30 | 12 |
| Lalor                | 10 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 12 | 19 | 9  | Hume Utd             | 10 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 32 | 33 | 10 |
| Maribyrnong Greens   | 10 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 11 | 22 | 7  | Yarraville Glory     | 10 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 19 | 27 | 10 |
| Melbourne University | 10 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 13 | 20 | 6  | Maribyrnong Greens   | 10 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 20 | 32 | 7  |
| Essendon Utd         | 10 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 13 | 27 | 6  | Westgate             | 10 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 14 | 36 | 3  |

| Seniors   | PROVI 1 NORTH WEST | Reserves |   |   |    |    |  |                       |    |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|---|--------------------|----------|---|---|----|----|--|-----------------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| FC Strathmore 3 Elwood City 4, Laverton Park 2 Avondale Heights 0, North Sunshine Eagles 2 (B Holod A Isai) Whittlesea Utd 3 (S Mirik 3), Northern Falcons 0 North City Lions 2, South Yarra 0 Corio 3 (M Marinovic 3), Westvale 2 (A Takianos ML Luzar) Melbourne City 0 |                    |          |   |   |    |    | FC Strathmore 2 Elwood City 1, Laverton Park 1 Avondale Heights 3, North Sunshine Eagles 2 Whittlesea Utd 2, Northern Falcons 1 North City Lions 2, South Yarra 1 Corio 0, Westvale 4 Melbourne City 3 |                       |    |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | P                  | W        | D | L | F  | A  | PT   |                       | P  | W | D | L | F  | A  | PT |
| Corio   | 10                 | 8        | 0 | 2 | 25 | 9  | 24   | South Yarra           | 10 | 8 | 0 | 2 | 21 | 12 | 24 |
| Avondale Heights  | 10                 | 7        | 1 | 2 | 18 | 7  | 22   | Avondale Heights      | 10 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 33 | 9  | 22 |
| Laverton Park   | 10                 | 6        | 2 | 2 | 21 | 12 | 20   | FC Strathmore         | 10 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 16 | 15 | 20 |
| Whittlesea Utd  | 10                 | 6        | 2 | 2 | 21 | 15 | 20   | Whittlesea Utd        | 10 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 19 | 7  | 18 |
| North Sunshine Eagles   | 10                 | 4        | 1 | 5 | 14 | 13 | 13   | Corio                 | 10 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 21 | 10 | 17 |
| Westvale  | 10                 | 4        | 1 | 5 | 10 | 9  | 13   | Laverton Park         | 10 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 11 | 9  | 16 |
| FC Strathmore   | 10                 | 4        | 1 | 5 | 20 | 23 | 13   | North City Lions      | 10 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 14 | 14 | 16 |
| Northern Falcons  | 10                 | 3        | 3 | 4 | 7  | 12 | 9  | Westvale              | 10 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 17 | 24 | 13 |
| Elwood City   | 10                 | 1        | 5 | 4 | 11 | 19 | 8  | North Sunshine Eagles | 10 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 15 | 19 | 12 |
| Melbourne City  | 10                 | 2        | 2 | 6 | 9  | 18 | 8  | Elwood City           | 10 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 13 | 20 | 8  |
| South Yarra   | 10                 | 1        | 5 | 4 | 3  | 13 | 8  | Melbourne City        | 10 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 13 | 42 | 3  |
| North City Lions  | 10                 | 2        | 1 | 7 | 6  | 15 | 7  | Northern Falcons      | 10 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 11 | 31 | -1 |

| Seniors  | PROVI 2 NORTH WEST  | Reserves |
|--|---|----------|
| Bell Park 3 (I Majtara LJ Page N Hopper) Collingwood City 3 (SD Olliver 2), Epping City 0 Western Eagles 1 (K Hubiak), Lalor Utd 2 (V Tomeski M Veselinovic) Melton 1 (E Waldron), Melbourne Tornado 3 (S Micic DK Pincin m koleog) West Preston 1 (WJ Sismanis), Moreland Utd 3 (D Salatino A Babo 2) Hoppers Crossing 3, Surf Coast 9 (X Ryan 2 J White J Bunce MJ Roberts MP Head M Slater 3) Plenty Valley Lions 0 | Bell Park 3 Collingwood City 2, Epping City 3 Western Eagles 2, Lalor Utd 0 Melton 1, Melbourne Tornado 3 West Preston 3, Moreland Utd 1 Hoppers Crossing 0, Surf Coast 5 Plenty Valley Lions 0 |          |
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| Seniors  | PROVI 3 NORTH WEST |   |   |   |    |    |    | Reserves   |    |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|--|--------------------|---|---|---|----|----|----|--|----|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Balmoral 2 Watsonia Heights 1, Meadow Park Eagles 4<br>Brimbank Stallions 2, Youth Utd 3 (D Kaya) Mill Park 4<br>(P Petrakos Z Taleb A Nicolaou), Bundoora Utd 1 Darebin<br>Utd 5 (T Jones-Roberts), Keilor Wolves 1 Brunswick<br>Zebras 1, Upfield 2 (H Al Kaisi) Northern Roosters 1 |                    |   |   |   |    |    |    | Balmoral 0 Watsonia Heights 1, Meadow Park Eagles<br>0 Brimbank Stallions 2, Youth Utd 4 Mill Park 0, Bundoora<br>Utd 3 Darebin Utd 7, Keilor Wolves 2 Brunswick Zebras 6,<br>Upfield 14 Northern Roosters 0 |    |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|  | P                  | W | D | L | F  | A  | PT |  | P  | W | D | L | F  | A  | PT |
| Darebin Utd  | 10                 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 28 | 11 | 25 | Watsonia Heights   | 10 | 8 | 0 | 2 | 33 | 9  | 24 |
| Upfield  | 10                 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 20 | 9  | 25 | Brimbank Stallions   | 10 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 31 | 18 | 23 |
| Northern Roosters  | 10                 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 22 | 14 | 22 | Upfield  | 10 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 57 | 14 | 20 |
| Balmoral   | 10                 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 23 | 14 | 14 | Youth Utd  | 10 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 31 | 17 | 19 |
| Meadow Park Eagles   | 10                 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 16 | 13 | 14 | Darebin Utd  | 10 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 24 | 15 | 19 |
| Mill Park  | 10                 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 13 | 22 | 13 | Balmoral   | 10 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 17 | 18 | 18 |
| Watsonia Heights   | 10                 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 12 | 10 | 12 | Brunswick Zebras   | 10 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 21 | 18 | 13 |
| Brimbank Stallions   | 10                 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 23 | 25 | 9  | Keilor Wolves  | 10 | 4 | 0 | 6 | 27 | 40 | 12 |
| Brunswick Zebras   | 10                 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 9  | 16 | 9  | Bundoora Utd   | 10 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 18 | 30 | 9  |
| Youth Utd  | 10                 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 11 | 15 | 8  | Meadow Park Eagles   | 10 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 12 | 25 | 5  |
| Bundoora Utd   | 10                 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 14 | 27 | 7  | Northern Roosters  | 10 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 15 | 43 | 4  |
| Keilor Wolves  | 10                 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 25 | 7  | Mill Park  | 10 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 12 | 51 | 4  |

Seniors

STATE SOUTH EAST 2

Reserves

Doncaster Rovers 2 (J Carroll R Bates) Casey Comets 5 (B Elmazovski N Henry F Murwira 2), Frankston Pines 0 Southern Stars 4 (B Sakaci C McDonald P Gollogley), Diamond Valley Utd 3 (A Rauf (Samad) L Minopoulos AJ Hammer) Berwick City 0, Heatherton Utd 3 (M Skenderovic M Pedic) Morwell Pegasus 5 (F Albanese 2 J Baros 2), Knox City 1 Dandenong City 3 (V Juric WM Gordon 2), Southern Suburbs 1 Eastern Lions 2

Doncaster Rovers 5 Casey Comets 3, Frankston Pines 1 Southern Stars 7, Diamond Valley Utd 5 Benwick City 0, Knox City 0 Dandenong City 1, Southern Suburbs 0 Eastern Lions 2

|                    | P  | W | D | L | F  | A  | PT |                    | P  | W | D | L | F  | A  | PT |
|--------------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|----|--------------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Southern Stars     | 10 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 27 | 10 | 28 | Knox City          | 10 | 8 | 0 | 2 | 30 | 11 | 24 |
| Morwell Pegasus    | 10 | 8 | 0 | 2 | 29 | 16 | 24 | Diamond Valley Utd | 10 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 32 | 13 | 22 |
| Diamond Valley Utd | 10 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 24 | 16 | 22 | Southern Stars     | 10 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 37 | 17 | 21 |
| Dandenong City     | 10 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 20 | 13 | 17 | Dandenong City     | 10 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 18 | 17 | 18 |
| Casey Comets       | 10 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 20 | 16 | 17 | Berwick City       | 10 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 15 | 23 | 18 |
| Knox City          | 10 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 16 | 15 | 15 | Eastern Lions      | 10 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 17 | 14 | 16 |
| Heatherton Utd     | 10 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 14 | 14 | 13 | Casey Comets       | 10 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 17 | 16 | 14 |
| Eastern Lions      | 10 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 16 | 19 | 11 | Heatherton Utd     | 9  | 3 | 1 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 10 |
| Doncaster Rovers   | 10 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 14 | 20 | 10 | Doncaster Rovers   | 10 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 21 | 24 | 9  |
| Frankston Pines    | 10 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 10 | 23 | 7  | Southern Suburbs   | 10 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 12 | 24 | 7  |
| Berwick City       | 10 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 8  | 19 | 5  | Frankston Pines    | 10 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 12 | 27 | 7  |
| Southern Suburbs   | 10 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 10 | 27 | 1  | Morwell Pegasus    | 9  | 2 | 1 | 6 | 20 | 40 | 7  |

| Seniors  | STATE SOUTH EAST 3 |   |   |   |    |    |    | Reserves   |    |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|--|--------------------|---|---|---|----|----|----|--|----|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Croydon City Arrows 1 Fitzroy City 3 (N Jones 2 D Wilson), Nunawading City FC 1 Mornington 1, South Springvale 0 Noble Park Utd 0, Waverley Wanderers 1 Kingston City 2 (P Sequeira 2), Springvale City 2 (J Pekmezovic) Peninsula Strikers 2 (T Papadopoulos S Baxter), Brandon Park 0 North Caulfield 5 (J Braver, P Miller, GM Evans, J Tasker 2) |                    |   |   |   |    |    |    | Croydon City Arrows 4 Fitzroy City 3, Nunawading City FC 1 Mornington 1, South Springvale 1 Noble Park Utd 0, Waverley Wanderers 0 Kingston City 3, Springvale City 2 Peninsula Strikers 3, Brandon Park 4 North Caulfield 3 |    |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|  | P                  | W | D | L | F  | A  | PT |  | P  | W | D | L | F  | A  | PT |
| South Springvale   | 10                 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 26 | 7  | 23 | Noble Park Utd   | 10 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 27 | 20 | 20 |
| Noble Park Utd   | 10                 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 22 | 10 | 23 | Peninsula Strikers   | 10 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 26 | 14 | 19 |
| Mornington   | 10                 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 23 | 13 | 19 | South Springvale   | 10 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 20 | 10 | 19 |
| Kingston City  | 10                 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 18 | 13 | 19 | Fitzroy City   | 10 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 28 | 15 | 18 |
| Peninsula Strikers   | 10                 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 13 | 14 | 17 | Nunawading City FC   | 10 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 25 | 20 | 18 |
| Fitzroy City   | 10                 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 20 | 21 | 14 | Croydon City Arrows  | 10 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 25 | 18 | 17 |
| North Caulfield  | 10                 | 4 | 0 | 6 | 23 | 24 | 12 | Kingston City  | 10 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 28 | 16 | 15 |
| Croydon City Arrows  | 10                 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 15 | 17 | 11 | Mornington   | 10 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 25 | 19 | 14 |
| Nunawading City FC   | 10                 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 7  | 15 | 11 | Brandon Park   | 10 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 14 | 32 | 8  |
| Waverley Wanderers   | 10                 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 7  | 14 | 9  | North Caulfield  | 10 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 22 | 30 | 7  |
| Springvale City  | 10                 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 13 | 26 | 6  | Springvale City  | 10 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 16 | 37 | 7  |
| Brandon Park   | 10                 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 13 | 26 | 5  | Waverley Wanderers   | 10 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 9  | 34 | 1  |

| Seniors  | PROVI 1 SOUTH EAST |   |   |   |    |    |    | Reserves               |    |   |   |   |    |   |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--------------------|---|---|---|----|----|----|------------------------|----|---|---|---|----|---|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Warragul Utd 3 Monash University 1, Beaumaris 1 (RA Iles) Boroondara Eagles 1 (TR Brooks), Monbulk 1 (DP Willcocks) Doveton 1, Mooroolbark 4 Dandenong Sparrows 0, Sandringham City 3 (J Gaynor T Fitzpatrick Own Goal) Old Camberwell Grammar 2, Old Scotch 1 Old Melburnians 1 |                    |   |   |   |    |    |    |                        |    |   |   |   |    | Warragul Utd 0 Monash University 2, Beaumaris 2 Boroondara Eagles 1, Monbulk 1 Doveton 1, Mooroolbark 5 Dandenong Sparrows 1, Sandringham City 1 Old Camberwell Grammar 1, Old Scotch 0 Old Melburnians 1 |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | P                  | W | D | L | F  | A  | PT |                        | P  | W | D | L | F  | A   | PT |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Old Scotch   | 10                 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 17 | 6  | 19 | Old Melburnians        | 10 | 8 | 0 | 2 | 24 | 13  | 24 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Monash University  | 10                 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 24 | 16 | 17 | Monash University      | 10 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 22 | 10  | 21 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Warragul Utd   | 10                 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 27 | 14 | 16 | Doveton                | 10 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 21 | 18  | 18 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dandenong Sparrows   | 10                 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 24 | 19 | 16 | Mooroolbark            | 10 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 20 | 12  | 16 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mooroolbark  | 10                 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 23 | 16 | 15 | Old Camberwell Grammar | 10 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 12 | 12  | 14 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sandringham City   | 10                 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 18 | 18 | 15 | Monbulk                | 10 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 12 | 13  | 14 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Old Melburnians  | 10                 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 18 | 17 | 13 | Beaumaris              | 10 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 21 | 22  | 12 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Doveton  | 10                 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 10 | 14 | 13 | Sandringham City       | 10 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 20 | 20  | 11 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Old Camberwell Grammar   | 10                 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 16 | 25 | 13 | Boroondara Eagles      | 10 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 19 | 25  | 11 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Monbulk  | 10                 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 15 | 19 | 10 | Dandenong Sparrows     | 10 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 21 | 30  | 11 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Beaumaris  | 10                 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 8  | 24 | 9  | Old Scotch             | 10 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 8  | 19  | 10 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Boroondara Eagles  | 10                 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 22 | 6  | Warragul Utd           | 10 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 16 | 22  | 7  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |







# V-LEAGUE

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Round 8



LEGEA  
V-League Premiership



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all wrapped up!

# Squads down to bare bones

By Adam Hussein

**Mickleham 6 vs 1 Prahran**

Mickleham opened up the card with a silky 6-1 win over Prahran. Ryan Filipovic was in fine form yet again for the yellow and black and scored four impressive goals in the rout. FC Prahran was severely depleted with Avram and Lazetic both suspended from red cards the previous round. Prahran were in danger of a big loss right from the kick off and resorted to dangerous measures with defender George Pavouris making a premature return from injury. He huffed and puffed but to little avail, a consolation goal the only reward for a stellar comeback. Mickleham goalkeeper Apostolakis was called into action on numerous occasions saving Mickleham's bacon in the second half and preventing any second half comeback. He collided with Prahran's Muktar with seconds to go, the incident sparking a brief altercation that produced cards for both men, a second yellow card for Muktar and another suspension for Prahran. Avram will be back for the giant killers next week but they will be without Muktar. Mickleham savoured a delicious three points that could be vital for them to stay alive.



Battle of the cellar dwellers with Albert Park in blue securing all 3 points against a lacklustre FC Carlton in white



**Ashburton 7 vs 6 Brimbank**

Brimbank started strongly but finished poorly in this see saw clash that saw Ashburton come out on top. Brimbank found goals in Nuretin Kalkan who scored his first V-League hat trick for the purple outfit. Vadim Maestro Mazursky scored a double and Alija Karic a single in the heartbreaking loss. The Adis Sehic (BFC) Send off changed the balance of the game and sparked an Ashburton comeback in fiery & feisty circumstances. A fired up Ashburton came storming home, with a fairytale hat trick to Chris Vithoulkas who had recently overcome a puncture lung. His brother Dimitri again led the line for Ashburton peppering Carlos Munoz with shot after shot. Vadim Mazursky tried to stem the Ashburton onslaught at 6-5 to equalize. But Ashburton marched on to steal & seal all three points. Admir Kablar must be left wondering what he has to do to earn a point in the heartwrenching aftermath; his side have battled bravely and played some sumptuous futsal with little fruit to bear for it.

**Albert Park 7 vs 3 FC Carlton**

Primetime clash of the evening, enter Albert Park who played their smart and safe style and left Carlton languishing at the bottom of the table in this relegation battle of the cellar dwellers. Shayan Rashidi controversially omitted, he scored 9 goals in 4 games for the royal blue outfit but his inability to fit into Zoran Matic's system could see the Victorian Youth player heading across the suburban border to Carlton. Carlton missing several regulars, Pattikis, Da Silva & Arjoman to name a few, cost them dearly as they withered away early in the first half. They found themselves 4-1

& Nabir were just not enough to halt the steam train that is Pascoe Vale. Spijodic scored three goals for the black and white in a close match that could've gone either way. Simsek was ever present for Vale and singlehandedly stopped Hume in their tracks on several occasions. Claudio Palmieri gk didn't perform as well as he had the previous week against Fitzroy and almost cost Vale the game. Dixon caused havoc for Hume but couldn't find the back of the net, with a vast array of short passes. Hume overran the ball at times, and Jesse Goodwin could've done better saving three of Vale's opening goals. Hooman Shekari made a surprise return to V-League action with the champs, but had little game time & match fitness to really impose himself on the game. Brazilian debutant Andre Caro, who had played first division in Brazil, had more luck scoring a vital double that saw the champs walk away with all three points and march on towards back to back V-League premierships.

**Metropolitan 8 vs 9 Fitzroy**

Metropolitan wore Argentina style LEGEA kits for this do or die clash at the top of the table with Fitzroy in the Brazilian esque apparel. Both sides put on a goal for goal spectacle of unorthodox futsal. It was entertaining none the less as the real froth hung around to catch a glimpse of two genuine title contenders. Ivan Zilic was superb for Metro with a quadruple bag of goals as he toyed with the youngsters of Fitzroy. Hurricane Husmir had two for Metro with Jusuf Avdic and Alija Redzepovic unusual solitary goalkickers. Metropolitan led at every stage but couldn't break through a valiant and brave Fitzroy resistance. Fitzroy went into the break 6-4 down but came out fighting. Adam Hussein, Leigh Minopoulos (2nd top goal scorer), Anthony Hammer and Brenno Polatti all scored crucial doubles to spark a second half comeback.

Diego Assaeda celebrates a magnificent comeback downing the purples Brimbank FC

down just as Ashburton had in the previous clash but there was no fairytale comeback for Carlton who was dismissed conceding seven goals. Serar Isa tried to spark Carlton into some life to little avail; Majid Alipour was sensational for Carlton, he gave everything he had and more and really persisted and persevered with new inclusions Alex Mitropoulos & Marco Siouva. Carlton need to shape up or ship out, Albert Park need more consistency in front of goal if they intend to survive relegation battles for the third consecutive year.

**North Melb 4 vs 2 FC Essendon**

The futsal juggernauts were depleted but survived against all odds against 2009 champions FC Essendon. Milton Sakkos led the line in spectacular fashion for the title hopefuls minus a long list of futsal royalty including De Moreas, J Barrientos 1 & J Barrientos 2, Alinejad, Pedic, Jankovic, Moon, Mihelakis and many more. Subic wasn't his stellar self in goals for FC Es-

sendon and Alexander the great couldn't find a way past 09/10 keeper of the season Dianoosh Rasoulzadeh, it cost the past champions. Filipovic stormed off the court at half time throwing his Essendon top on the bench in sheer frustration at being isolated and blamed for some poor decisions. A return to Albert Park is likely for 'the engine' that had lost his way in the red and white. If Essendon are a player short of avoiding relegation territory, North look like they could win the league with 7 players missing! Colby Waterfield stepped up for Sakkos alongside good friend Kui Mu to score vital goals and sweep up strongly at the back in the dying stages. In the end Essendon lacked the craft and fire power to really challenge North.

**Hume 7 vs 8 Pascoe Vale FC**

2010 State LEAGUE Champions Hume was so unlucky not to earn a point out of this clash against the 2010 V-LEAGUE Champions. Doubles to Bozdogan, Tankir

| LADDER             |   |   |   |   |    |    |     |     |  |  |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|--|--|
|                    | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | GD  | Pts |  |  |
| 1 Nth Melbourne FC | 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 48 | 27 | 21  | 19  |  |  |
| 2 Fitzroy FC       | 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 44 | 33 | 11  | 19  |  |  |
| 3 Pascoe Vale FC   | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 47 | 34 | 6   | 16  |  |  |
| 4 Ashburton FC     | 8 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 44 | 38 | 6   | 15  |  |  |
| 5 Metropolitan FC  | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 65 | 49 | 16  | 14  |  |  |
| 6 Hume FC          | 8 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 39 | 35 | 4   | 12  |  |  |
| 7 FC Prahran       | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 37 | 40 | -3  | 10  |  |  |
| 8 Mickleham FC     | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 34 | 40 | -6  | 10  |  |  |
| 9 FC Essendon      | 8 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 34 | 36 | -2  | 9   |  |  |
| 10 Albert Park FC  | 8 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 36 | 46 | -10 | 6   |  |  |
| 11 Brimbank FC     | 8 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 34 | 42 | -8  | 5   |  |  |
| 12 FC Carlton      | 8 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 23 | 65 | -42 | 3   |  |  |

**Round 8 Results  
June 16**

- 6:30 Mickleham FC v FC Prahran 6 - 1
- 7:15 Ashburton FC v Brimbank FC 7 - 6
- 8:00 Albert Park FC v FC Carlton 7 - 3
- 8:45 Nth Melbourne FC v FC Essendon 4 - 2
- 9:30 Hume FC v Pascoe Vale FC 7 - 8
- 10:15 Metropolitan FC v Fitzroy FC 8 - 9

**Round 9 Clashes  
June 23**

- 6:30 Brimbank FC v FC Carlton
- 7:15 Ashburton FC v FC Essendon
- 8:00 Nth Melbourne FC v Fitzroy FC
- 8:45 Metropolitan FC v Pascoe Vale FC
- 9:30 Albert Park FC v FC Prahran
- 10:15 Mickleham FC v Hume FC

**Top Scorers**

- 1.A.Redzepovic MFC 18 goals
- 2.L.Minopoulos FFC 17 goals
- 3.V.Mazurskiy BFC 17 goals
- 4.A.Stevanovic FCE 16 goals
- 5.I.Zilic MFC 14 goals

Adam Hussein went down injured with another rolled ankle but this spurred his side on to a driven second half performance. Brother Alex started the fight back with Pollatti doing the damage with 4 assists. Alem Ljuca and Dino Redzepovic was a little flat for Metropolitan. Still early days at Vic Street, another 14 rounds to go, all the heavy weights still well in contention to taking out the V-League title.


PHOTOS BY  
Franco Lucchetti, Nick Chipas, Theo Mechanikos

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BENTLEIGH GREENS

1

SUNSHINE GEORGIES

0

#### Match Details:

**Bentleigh Greens line up:** D. Salcin, N. Scwhal, C. Smart, C. Anthopoulos, A. Fadijevic (V. Natsioulas 87), A. Ouliaris, J. Webster, J. Sapazovski (B. Scott 78), D. Piemonte, D. Lokvancic (S. De Vito 90), L. Fitzpatrick. Subs. C. Henry.

**Scorer:** Adam Fadijevic

**Sunshine George Cross line up:** M. John, D. Cameron, C. Konstas, S. Romein (C. Sweeney 59), B. Devlin, B. Cogger, F. Richards, G. Hurren (L. Grounds 36), A. Nabbout, J. Blackburn (M. Cini 77), A. Bourakis. Subs. C. Salik, A. Turer.

**Venue:** Kingston Heath  
**Crowd:** 500

# Georgies slump again

By Gordon Bennett

**Despite dominating for the majority of this match, Sunshine George Cross slumped to their 5th successive defeat going down 1-0 to Bentleigh Greens.**

The cold, wet and blustery conditions on Friday night at Kingston Heath restricted the crowd, but those who braved the elements witnessed a very keenly contested and exciting match.

The win for Bentleigh elevated them into the top 5, prior to other round 15 matches being played, while the Georgies slide down the ladder continued. The home side kicked off with a strong wind at their backs and after only four minutes created the first scoring opportunity.

Defender Jack Webster found himself with space on the edge of the penalty area, but floated his shot over the bar. The visitors took control after this with good on the ground passing that ended up with Andrew Bourakis turning his opponent and forcing Damir Salcin into a fine save.

Salcin was again called into action after 19 minutes following a good cross from Gavin Hurren that ended up with a James Blackburn header being stopped on the goal line. Sunshine's through passes from the midfield trio of Fidell Richards, Ben Cogger and Shaun Romein created

problems for Bentleigh's defence with a through pass from Shaun Romein put Andrew Nabbout one on one with the keeper.

The 17 year old was under heavy pressure running in on goal and his attempt went wide. The game turned sour for Sunshine after 36 minutes when new recruit Gavin Hurren limped off injured after 36 minutes and within 3 minutes Bentleigh Greens took the lead following against the run of play. A long clearance from defence saw John Sapazovski flick a header into the path Dean Piemonte.

He squared a pass into the path of Adam Fadijevic who had the easy task of giving the Greens the lead. The goal unsettled the Georgies and within 3 minutes Damir Lokvancic could have doubled the home side's lead when he got behind Sunshine's defence. His effort caused Martin John no problems.

The Georgies continued on the attack after the break with a dazzling run by Fidel Richards found Andrew Bourakis in front of goal. Bourakis was tripped by goalkeeper Damir Salcin as he attempted to shoot, with the referee having no hesitation pointing to the penalty spot. Salcin was fortunate to receive only a caution for his wild tackle. The new Bentleigh keeper turned from villain into a hero by brilliantly saving Cameron Douglas spot kick.

Bentleigh came more into the game with good inter-passing up the left wing

that ended up with a good opportunity for Anthony Ouliaris. He couldn't capitalise on the opportunity and fluffed his chance. Sunshine George Cross continued pressing for an equaliser with Ben Cogger weaving through the Bentleigh defence and feeding Andrew Bourakis. Once again Damir Salcin rescued the home team turning a goal bound shot around the upright. From the resultant corner kick, Fidell Richards had his shot charged down with the ball falling to Ben Cogger who from 30 metres let fly with a rocket of a shot.

The goal bound shot produced the save of the night from Damir Salcin. The ball was heading for the top corner but Salcin would not be beaten, flying across and finger tipping the ball over the cross-bar. Try as they may, the Georgies could not pierce the last line of Bentleigh's defence with Salcin proving to be a valuable acquisition for Bentleigh following his transfer from Preston.

Bentleigh had withstood all that Sunshine could muster and began building their own dangerous attacks. Twice they worked good openings with Martin John being called to make a low save. Sunshine's keeper could do little a few minutes before the end when a powerful drive from Dean Piemonte struck the underside of the cross-bar and was cleared. Sunshine George Cross mounted a final rally in injury time with an all out attack that ended up with Cameron Douglas

missing the target from 2 metres to deny his side a share of the points.

It was hard to separate the man of the match, with Fidell Richards starring for the Cross, while Damir Salcin was the reason why Bentleigh up earning all 3 points. In round 16 Bentleigh Greens are once again at home to Northcote City on Friday June 25, while the Georgies have a home fixture against Hume City at the Knights Stadium on Monday night June 28.



Damir Lokvancic (Greens) gets the better of Ben Cogger  
PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



Andrew Bourakis (SGC) goes down dramatically and its a penalty much to keeper Damior Salcin's dismay.  
PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



... but it's saved as Salcin dives the right way. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



Adam Fadijevic and Dean Piemonte share the spoils after putting the Georgies to the sword for yet another week. PHOTO: ANITA MILAS



DANDENONG THUNDER



3

OAKLEIGH CANNONS



0

## Match Details:

**Dandenong Thunder:** Webster, S., Osman, L., Wilford, A., Bright, J., Starosa, B., Sherbon, L., Rexhepi, S., Davidson, R., Kellaway, G., Bulloch, S.( Stergiopoulos. M. 74'), Reed, J.

**Scorers:** Kellaway, G. 25', Reed, J. 42', 73'

**Oackleigh Cannons:**

McMaster, G., Cummings, J., Drakos, A. ( Palinic, L. 62'), Fitzgerald, J., Drakos, S., Webster, S., Damianos, B.( Yusseff, Y. 74'), Watson ,C., Obradovic, B, Karpeh, J., Gasparinatos, B. ( Diaco, R.,54')

**Man of the Match:** J.Reed (Dandenong Thunder)

**Venue :** George Andrews Reserve  
**Crowd:** Behind closed doors

# Thunder Finds Profit in Reed

By Geogre Stogiannou

**A double strike from new Welsh striker Jamie Reed, spearheaded Dandenong Thunder's 3-0 win over second placed Oakleigh Cannons at an empty George Andrews Reserve on Saturday.**

Reed scored in each half following a goal from another British import Geoffrey Kellaway to give the home team its third straight win against a top three opponent.

The locked out home fans gathered on the outside of the southern boundary wire mesh fence and watched a tight, even, opening twenty minutes of few chances. However when Thunder midfielder Luke Sherbon collected the ball from a square pass in the centre circle, his flighted pass down the centre found Kellaway drifting in from the right flank. Kellaway's first touch took him past the Cannons keeper Griffin McMaster who had been lured off his line, and the Thunder midfielder slotted the ball into an unguarded net to give his side the lead.

Down the other end, Thunder keeper Stuart Webster saved well from Oakleigh's Cameron Watson with Bill Damianos blasting the rebound wide.

Thunder playing with one up front, relied on striker Reed to work hard, and use his strength to hold the ball up with his back to goal, which he did well throughout the match. The home team defended deep to deny the dangerous Cannons striker Jerry Karpeh from using his speed to get in behind the back four.

Just before the break, a cross from Thunder midfielder Scott Bulloch found striker Reed who tapped in from close range to give the home team a two goal cushion at the break.

The Cannons dominated posses-

sion in the second half producing a number of clear chances to score. Soon after the break, Karpeh headed over the bar from close range. In the 24th minute, Thunder keeper Webster produced a crucial double save to deny both Karpeh and Bunel Obradovic in quick succession. Minutes later a Webster clearance found its way to lone striker Reed who managed to turn the tiring Cannons' central defence and lob McMaster for the game sealer.

Oakleigh Cannons coach John Anastasiadis said afterwards, " I seriously don't think the 3-0 score is indicative of the game. We've had a lot of possession of the ball and Stuart Webster has pulled off two magnificent saves when it could have been 2-1, and then we've conceded another silly goal. Look the effort was there. We know this is the business end of the season and we know it's going to be more difficult now. We've got to go back to the drawing board, fix a few things and go on to the next game against Heidelberg, another difficult game. For us it's a grand final every week."

Dandenong coach Stuart Munro commented after the match, " The result was terrific. It probably flattered us a little because , full credit to them, especially in the second half they came at us, The telling point was probably when Webby (Webster) pulled off a double save in the second half and then we went on to score the third. We seem such a resilient team at the moment. More compact, a wee bit more urgency about our play, a wee bit more hunger about our play. It's coming out in goals and also in clean sheets. I thought our centre backs along with our keeper were terrific." Munro also believes the new imports have brought with them a new confidence and eagerness to the rest of the team.



Thunder's UK import Geoffrey Kellaway celebrates with Scott Bulloch. PHOTO: ANITA MILAS



Jamie Reed (left) shares the spoils with fellow new Thunder arrivals Geoffrey Kellaway and Luke Sherbon. PHOTO: ANITA MILAS



Jamie Reed steers home the ball from close range.

PHOTO: ANITA MILAS



Thunder's Geoff Kellaway slots the ball home past Cannons' keeper Griffin McMaster.

PHOTO: ANITA MILAS



GREEN GULLY



2

SOUTH MELBOURNE



0

## Match Details:

## Green Gully:

N.Roganovic, S.Burton, M.Medjedovic,  
D.Jones, R.Ollerton, J.Fleming,  
M.Sanders(J.Hayne), J.Groenewald(M.  
Anderson), G.Hockless(T.Gould),  
J.Munoz, A.Vargas.

Goals: S.Burton '76, J.Hayne '85

Yellow Cards: T.Gould '87

## South Melbourne:

P.Zois, R.Payne, K.Joryeff(D.Vasi-  
levski), R.Tavsancioglu, J.Keenan,  
S.O'Dor(E.Cetkin), G.De Nittis(H.  
Basma), F.De Moraes, M.Gasparis,  
J.Stefanou, C.Recchia.

Goals: N/A

Yellow Cards: P.Zois '76

## Man of the Match:

Joshua Groenewald (Green Gully)

Crowd: 750

Venue: Green Gully Reserve

# Gully's finds its mojo

By Markian Jaworsky

The Green Gully Cavaliers have continued their recent good form, with a 2-0 victory over a South Melbourne team made up of players some with international club experience, others with NSL and A-League experience.

Whilst Gully boasted most of the goalscoring chances, it wasn't until the inspired substitution of Kiwi Jason Hayne, that the home side broke the deadlock, and eventually Hayne himself doubled Gully's lead.

Both teams came into the fixture on the back of 1-0 wins, Gully 1-0 over Oakleigh (also beat NTC 3-0 midweek), and South 1-0 over Bentleigh. Gully's player of the moment was striker Joshua Groenewald, scorer of the winner away to Oakleigh, first signalled his intentions after just 7 minutes, his volley fully extended South Melbourne goalkeeper Peter Zois, in what was a spectacular save.

Groenewald later had a long range effort fire just wide, before Andy Vargas almost latched onto a Jeffrey Fleming short cross, however Vargas' close effort was denied by a last ditch interception by South Melbourne's defence.

In the second half, Gully again had the better chances, but it was substitute Jason Hayne who came onto the pitch and was destined to put the ball in the back of the net for the opening goal, but was tripped from behind by South Melbourne goalkeeper Peter Zois. Zois received perhaps a sympathetic yellow card, Gully's players demanded a red card from the match referee, but one would presume red cards are reserved for Australia's Tim Cahill and Harry Kewell. Steve Burton scored the penalty kick, to extend his tally for the season to five, and 10 minutes later, Jason Hayne made it two, without any interference from South's goalkeeper second time around.

Speaking in an interview after match, Gully's Jason Hayne was happy with his performance and just hopes to see more match time, "hopefully now with the goal, I might get a start in the team next week."

In the Under 21's, Green Gully Cavaliers lost 2-3 to South Melbourne in a highly entertaining fixture. Highlights of this Under 21's match will be aired on the Green Gully Show on Channel 31 (44 on digital), Saturday July 10, 10:30am.



Goalmouth action from Green Gully Reserve.

PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS



Heads up! Action from Green Gully's 2-0 win over South Melbourne on Saturday.

PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS



Gully's Steve Burton breaks the deadlock by converting the penalty and sending South's keeper Peter Zois the wrong way.

PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

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# Bulls & Strikers in 8 goal thriller

By Jarrod Ellis

The Hyundai QSL continues to chug along as Round 13 pulled into the station on the weekend. Sunshine Coast are the undisputed leaders of the league to date, having separated themselves from the pack that's led by Brisbane Strikers and NQ Razorbacks.

Brisbane was in action at Borzi Park on Saturday against a FNQ Bulls that has struggled in recent weeks, going down to Capricorn Cougars and QAS, and came into the match without star attacker George Koroma. Despite those circumstances the Bulls would manage to overcome their recent poor form and fight their way to a 4-4 draw in a fluctuating, end-to-end encounter.

The Strikers had already defeated FNQ twice this season 4-0 and 8-2 and it appeared proceedings would likely take a similar path when Michael Angus volleyed past Bulls' keeper Angelo Serafin in only the sixth minute.

However from that moment onwards the first half belonged to the Bulls as they dominated the visitors in midfield, supplying David Ruiz with quality service as he continually troubled the Brisbane defence.

Brendan White was showing his skills in goal, pulling off a number of saves as the Bulls relentlessly sought an equaliser but in the 22nd minute he would finally be beaten. Joe Rusch provided the goal as he converted a free kick from 25m out, curling the ball around the goal and into the corner of the net, just out of reach of the hands of White.

FNQ weren't content to sit back and hope for a draw, continually pushing forward in a display of attacking football that would bring them reward against a creaky Brisbane defence. Ten minutes after their first goal the home side seized the lead after some sloppy defensive play. This time Rusch was the provider, twice crossing it into the box before Ruiz poked the ball into the net after White was unable to hold onto it.

Ten minutes later Ruiz and the Bulls were celebrating once again as he showed excellent control to bring down a cross as he raced toward the box at full pace before lashing a shot into the net. A yellow card to Hews, for protesting that Ruiz had handled the ball, rubbed salt into the Strikers' wounds but the visitors otherwise responded well to the situation and clawed back a goal just three minutes later when Sadler's high cross from the Strikers' left cleared goalkeeper Serafin's head and fell to the back post, where Shade forced it over the line despite the desperate attentions of a couple of defenders.

If the first half had belong to the Bulls then the second was the domain of the Strikers as clawed their way back for a point.

Twelve minutes after the restart Brisbane were celebrating an equaliser as Sean Burke seemingly created a goal from nowhere, shimmying past a defender on the edge of the area and blasting the ball into the bottom corner of the net.

The Strikers' celebrations upon getting back on level terms were to be short-lived. Five minutes later Bulls substitute Tamas Maffey-Stumpe, who had come on for Bronson, beat Hews to a loose ball just inside the Strikers' half and released Ruiz for a run on goal with an accurate pass. Ruiz took three or four strides with a defender breathing down his neck before unleashing a powerful shot that curved away from White to once again make his net bulge and send the home crowd into loud celebration as Ruiz completed a memorable hat-trick to make the score 4-3 to the home side.

That wasn't the end of proceedings as Brisbane continually got forward in search of an equaliser that would eventually arrive in the 70th minute courtesy of Burke yet again who finished with aplomb after being sent racing into the area thanks to an excellent pass from Chay Hews.

Despite unrelenting efforts from both sides that goal would prove to be the last and a match that had looked likely to be dominated by one side finished a 4-4 thriller.

Bundaberg Spirit and Whitsdunay Miners were also in action on Saturday night as they faced off at Martens Oval in Bundaberg.

The Spirit have experienced a renewal of enthusiasm thanks largely to their three new recruits to the squad Ray Miller, Adam Ormsby and Nick Fitzgerald. That optimism was clear in the match against the Miners but it was to be the experienced locals rather than the interstate stars that would secure a point for the home side in a 2-2 draw with Whitsunday.



Ex Mareeba Bulls premier league player Jason Shade for the Brisbane Strikers and FNQ Bulls player Paul Eigel. PHOTO: JIM HATCHMAN



Bulls Midfielder Nathan Bird and Strikers Jordan Mason. PHOTO: JIM HATCHMAN

| LADDER              |    |    |   |    |     |    |     |     |  |  |
|---------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|----|-----|-----|--|--|
|                     | P  | W  | D | L  | For | Ag | GD  | Pts |  |  |
| 1 Sunshine Coast    | 13 | 12 | 0 | 1  | 38  | 17 | 21  | 36  |  |  |
| 2 Brisbane Strikers | 13 | 7  | 3 | 3  | 30  | 13 | 17  | 24  |  |  |
| 3 NQ Razorbacks     | 13 | 7  | 2 | 4  | 24  | 14 | 10  | 23  |  |  |
| 4 FNQ Bulls         | 13 | 6  | 1 | 6  | 30  | 29 | 1   | 19  |  |  |
| 5 QAS               | 11 | 4  | 1 | 6  | 24  | 27 | -3  | 13  |  |  |
| 6 Whitsunday Miners | 12 | 3  | 3 | 6  | 20  | 25 | -5  | 12  |  |  |
| 7 Capricorn Cougars | 12 | 3  | 2 | 7  | 14  | 24 | -10 | 11  |  |  |
| 8 Bundaberg Spirit  | 13 | 1  | 2 | 10 | 13  | 44 | -3  | 5   |  |  |

| RESULTS  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Bundaberg Spirit 2 (Haack 16, Stephenson 66) v Whitsunday Miners 2 (Master 36, Scotton 87)</b>    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>FNQ Bulls 4 (Rusch 22, Ruiz 32,42,59) v Brisbane Strikers 4 (Angus 6, Sadler 45, Burke 58,70)</b> |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>QAS v Capricorn Cougars (Match Postponed)</b>   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Sunshine Coast FC 1 (Own Goal 55) v NQ Razorbacks 2 (Searle 30,60)</b>                            |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

| NEXT ROUND                                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>ROUND 14</b>                             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Bundaberg Spirit v Sunshine Coast FC</b> |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <i>Sat 26 June 7:00pm</i>                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Brisbane Strikers v QAS</b>              |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <i>Sat 26 June 7:00pm</i>                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Whitsunday Miners v FNQ Bulls</b>        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <i>Sat 26 June 7:30pm</i>                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>NQ Razorbacks v Capricorn Cougars</b>    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <i>Sat 26 June 7:30pm</i>                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

In the previous round the Miners went agonisingly close to being the first side to take points off Sunshine Coast in 2010, eventually beaten by an injury time winner as the Fire came from behind to secure a win. This time it was to be the Miners who would ruin the home side's hopes of an excellent result.

Corey Haack put Bundaberg into the lead in only the 16th minute, a position still unfamiliar to a Spirit side that only secured its first win since 2008 two weeks ago. It came as no real surprise then when Tyson Master struck towards the end of the first half for Whitsunday and both sides went into the dressing rooms on level terms.

The second half played out in a similar fashion, Laurie Stephenson put Bundaberg back into the lead on 66 minutes but his side were unable to hold on to all three points as Daniel Scotton snuck in for an equaliser with only three minutes of normal time remaining.

The most anticipated match of the round took place on Sunday afternoon when third placed NQ Razorbacks travelled to Stockland Park, home of runaway league leaders Sunshine Coast Fire. The Razorbacks lost a close match 2-1 earlier in the year against Sunshine Coast and were hoping to reverse that score line this time around despite having an injury list that includes the likes of David Mayes, Robyn Edwards, Brett Hay and Nathan Witton.

Sunshine Coast have had a more settled squad but hints of complacency have shown themselves as in their last four victories their winning margin has been by only a single goal, with two of those arriving in the dying minutes of the match.

This time around the Fire were unable to pull themselves out of a hole as the Razorbacks pulled off the exact result they were hoping for, a 2-1 win that deals Sunshine Coast their first loss of the season.

Joshua Searle was the hero for visitors yet again, a week after scoring the winning goal against QAS this time he bagged a double, one in each half that enabled his side to hang on for a valuable three points and keep their hopes of a maiden premiership alive. Sunshine Coast were unable to break down a resilient Razorbacks side despite the twin attacking prongs of Shaun Blackman and Tyson Holmes putting in solid performances, indeed the home side's only goal came courtesy of an own goal from the visitors.

In the remaining match of the round QAS were scheduled to host Capricorn Cougars but the fixture was postponed to a later date.



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# Blue Devils cut gap to two points

By Russ Gibbs

Belconnen United has cut the gap to top-of-the-table Canberra FC to two points following their 6-1 thrashing of Monaro Panthers at McKellar Park on Saturday evening. Veteran striker Danny Macor led the charge netting four goals to take his personal season total to ten and thus claim pole position in the Golden Boot charts at the halfway mark of the campaign.

Macor's haul was added to by Dustin Wells and Tai Smith, both scoring before the interval as the Blue Devils took a 3-0 lead into the sheds at half-time. Geoff Howarth pulled a goal back for the visitors when the score was 5-0 but it was to little avail as Belconnen completed a comfortable win that cuts Canberra FC's advantage in half.

Canberra FC were held to a 1-1 draw at Cookbundoon, home of Goulburn Strikers, and were exceedingly fortunate to get a point with the home team creating the better chances and wasting three clear opportunities in the first half to extend the lead given to them by Nicky Rogers 20th minute opener.

The sending off of Strikers Captain, Andrew Aliffi, gave Canberra FC a lifeline which they duly took thanks to an equalising goal from Alex Castro, the in-form attacker scoring his fourth goal in two matches to rescue a point that, by all accounts, they probably did not deserve. The draw may have given Goulburn the motivation to improve in the second part of the Gatorade Premier League season.

At the foot of the ladder Tuggeranong United defeated ANU FC 2-0 at ANU North Oval in a performance in which they showcased some neat patches of play. The match was an even contest throughout with the difference proving two disastrous mistakes by the ANU FC defence. In the sixth minute a weak back-pass was intercepted by Tuggeranong forward Mark Shields who clashed with James Bradbury in the ANU FC goal where the ball fell to Alex Weber to slot in his fifth of the term. United secured the points in the first minute of the second half when Shields drilled a spot-kick into the top corner of the net after Weber was upended in the area.

The win was only Tuggeranong's second of the season and took the Southern club to eight points on the ladder and narrowed the gap to the students above them to a solitary point.

And bottom club Woden Valley completed a shock 2-0 win over Canberra Olympic at Hawker Football Centre to conclude the weekend's action. Woden, who had only won one match this season before this encounter, took the lead in the 24th minute with a first goal in Australia for tough-tackling centre-back Daryll Hall volleying into the top corner from twelve metres. Leading 1-0 at the break Woden was in good form throughout and secured the points with a 63rd minute goal from Kehnan Walsh.

The weekend results have tightened up the Gatorade Premier League table considerably with Woden, in tenth place, incredibly only seven points off a finals place.



ACT weekend action from Woden Valley's 2-0 win over Canberra Olympic. PHOTO: RUSS GIBBS



## WILKINS TREBLE SEES FOXES TAKE HONOURS

A hat-trick from Belwest Foxes centre-forward Hope Wilkins has won the top-of-the-table match at Woden Park as the visitors defeated Woden Valley 3-1 on Sunday afternoon in The Tradies Women's Premier League.

In a match played on a sticky pitch it was the home team that took the lead when Catherine Brown connected with a cross that usually would have been easily stopped by Foxes 'keeper Melanie Luksa. However, Luksa slipped on the muddy turf and watched in horror as the ball trickled across the goal line.

It was the first time that the Foxes had been behind this season and they showed their class with a second-half performance that emphasised the gap between them and the rest of the league. With Woden battling desperately Wilkins opened her account by latching onto Luksa's long clearance to slot home the equaliser. Wilkins added two more later in the match, taking her season total to seventeen goals, to seal the result.

Elsewhere, Caitlin Munoz racked up six goals, taking her total to sixteen as Belconnen United blitzed Brindabella Blues 14-0. Munoz's double hat-trick was added to by a treble from Amy Spence, a double from Bronwyn Stud-

man and singles from Katie Woodman, Maja Blasch and Ilahna Aitchison as the Blue Devils ran riot. Poor Brindabella have now conceded eighty-four goal this season, thirty-eight of which have come in the last three matches.

Nearly all the division's leading scorers in the Tradies Women's Premier League were on target over the weekend with Julie Ibarra netting for Tuggeranong United in their 1-1 draw with Weston Creek, Kelly Donnelly replying for the visitors, whilst Aurelia Bullo scored her tenth of the year in Canberra FC's 1-1 draw with ANU WFC, cancelling out Cassie Schilg's fifth minute opener for the students.

## NEXT ROUND

- Round 10

Sat 26 Jun KO 6pm Canberra City v Canberra FC  
Hawker Football Centre
- Sun 27 Jun KO 3pm ANU FC v Cooma Tigers

ANU North Oval 1  
Sun 27 Jun KO 3pm Monaro Panthers v Tuggeranong Utd  
Riverside Stadium
- Sun 27 Jun KO 3pm Woden Valley v Goulburn Strikers

Woden Park Enclosed
- Sun 27 Jun KO 4pm Belconnen Utd v Canberra Olympic

McKellar Park

## LADDER

|                     | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | GD  | Pts |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1 Canberra FC       | 9 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 33 | 6  | +27 | 21  |
| 2 Belconnen United  | 9 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 25 | 14 | +11 | 19  |
| 3 Cooma Tigers      | 9 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 16 | 10 | +6  | 15  |
| 4 Canberra City     | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 13 | 10 | +3  | 13  |
| 5 Monaro Panthers   | 9 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 13 | 16 | -3  | 13  |
| 6 Canberra Olympic  | 9 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 9  | 12 | -3  | 11  |
| 7 Goulburn Strikers | 8 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 16 | 12 | +4  | 9   |
| 8 ANU FC            | 9 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 10 | 29 | -10 | 9   |
| 9Tuggeranong United | 9 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 11 | 29 | -18 | 8   |
| 10 Woden Valley     | 9 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 9  | 25 | -17 | 6   |

## WPL LADDER

|                      | P  | W  | D | L  | F  | A  | GD  | Pts |
|----------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1 Belwest Foxes      | 11 | 11 | 0 | 0  | 57 | 7  | +50 | 33  |
| 2 Woden Valley       | 10 | 7  | 1 | 2  | 39 | 9  | +30 | 21  |
| 3Belconnen United    | 11 | 5  | 3 | 3  | 37 | 10 | +27 | 18  |
| 4 Canberra FC        | 11 | 4  | 4 | 3  | 20 | 29 | -9  | 16  |
| 5 Weston Creek       | 11 | 4  | 3 | 4  | 19 | 18 | +1  | 15  |
| 6 Tuggeranong United | 11 | 3  | 3 | 5  | 23 | 27 | -4  | 12  |
| 7 ANU WFC            | 10 | 1  | 2 | 7  | 7  | 26 | -19 | 5   |
| 8 Brindabella Blues  | 11 | 0  | 0 | 11 | 7  | 84 | -77 | 0   |

## ACT RESULTS

Belconnen United 6 (Danny Macor 7', 55', 60', 71', Dustin Wells 19', Tai Smith 37') Monaro Panthers 1 (Geoff Howarth 69')

Goulburn Strikers 1 (Nicky Rogers 20') Canberra FC 1 (Alex Castro 69')

ANU FC 0 Tuggeranong United 2 (Alex Weber 8', Mark Shields 46' (pen))

Cooma Tigers 2 (Goran Josifovski 46', Serdan Bircan 84') Canberra City 1 (Misko Naumoski 53' (pen))

Canberra Olympic 0 Woden Valley 2 (Daryll Hall 24', Kehnan Walsh 63')

## WPL

Woden Valley 1 (Catherine Brown) Belwest Foxes 3 (Hope Wilkins (3))

Tuggeranong United 1 (Julie Ibarra) Weston Creek 1 (Kelly Donnelly)

ANU WFC 1 (Cassie Schilg 5') Canberra FC 1 (Aurelia Bullo 33')

Belconnen United 14 (Caitlin Munoz 5', 36', 43', 57', 75', 82', Amy Spence 21', 80', 88', Katie Woodman 34', Maja Blasch 60', Bronwyn Studman 70', 77', Ilahna Aitchison 86')  
6 Snez Veljanovska (Belwest Foxes), Freyja Jacobsen (Tuggeranong United), Rachel Crittenden (Weston Creek)

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# Improving South hold Inter

By Emma Fields

**Heidelberg retained top spot in Womens Premier League (WPL) with a 2-0 victory over Altona City assisted by South Melbourne's surprising draw against Box Hill in round ten last weekend.**

Bendigo Vipers bounced back from their pasting at the hands of Heidelberg in last week to overcome third placed Sandringham 3-0 at home, while Casey Comets picked up three points defeating Preston 4-1.

Box Hill's draw against South Melbourne denied them the chance to reclaim the top position in the league but they remain close behind Heidelberg in second place.

Box Hill opened the scoring at Wembley Park in the 12th minute when Deanna Niceski found the net at back post from a lovely cross from New Zealand national player Marlies Oostdam.

But South Melbourne found the answer through Laura Spiranovic, who was on target and scored her first goal of the year to level the match.

Spiranovic, the second highest goal scorer in the WPL in 2009, has been a high impact player for South Melbourne since she returned to the league a few weeks ago, assisting goals and creating headaches for opposition defenders.

South Melbourne's assistance coach, Matt Shaw praised the efforts of Spiranovic in the match.

"She does a lot of hard work up front, she harasses defenders, she's got speed, she's got strength.

She used her skill and speed to get into a good position and her shot was on target," he said describing her first goal.

Box Hill responded when Aleksandra Sinclair took on South Melbourne's keeper, Sarah McKeown, who did well to save the shot but Sinclair slotted the rebound into the back of the net to put Inter ahead.

South Melbourne should have levelled before half time when a penalty was awarded against Box Hill for a dangerous tackle in the area. Genia Avram stepped up to spot but Box Hill keeper and Matilda captain Melissa Barbieri deflected the shot to keep Inter ahead.

Early in the second half South Melbourne's Niki Cook caught Barbieri off her line when she sent a sublime long range volley from 30 yards out, which sailed over the keepers head and tied up the game.

Box Hill were pressing for the deciding goal but South were up to the task and both teams had to settle for one point. Mr Shaw said the club and coach, former Soccerroo Alan Davidson, were satisfied with a draw.

"It was a tough last half an hour for us... we were doggedly hanging on in the last 15 to 20 minutes.

"I think we deserve what we got given (sic) the defensive work that we did and it would have been really nice to pinch a goal.

"But we are really happy getting a point out of it (the game) considering how tough the game was and the quality of players that they (Box Hill) put on the park."

Heidelberg racked up four wins on the trot when they overcame Altona 2-0 at HC Kim Reserve on Sunday afternoon.

Coach of the Bergers, John Liopas, would be fairly pleased with his teams performance at they start the run into the second half of the season sitting first in the league with a game

in hand.

The club is not doubt keen to win a second piece of silver wear to accompany their 2007 victory.

Bendigo notched up their third win of the season with comprehensive 3-0 victory at Epsom Huntly Reserve over Sandringham on Saturday afternoon.

Talented youngster Sarah Richardson booted two goals for the Vipers and Ilona Jakab contributed the third against Sandringham, which had no answers for the aggressive counter attacking style of play Bendigo favour.

Bendigo have an impressive record at home – all three wins have been at home along with two draws. The Vipers away record however is abysmal not registering a single point from their three away games this year, something they will be hoping to change when they take South Melbourne next week.

Sandringham retain third place in the league despite the loss but they face Heidelberg next week which will be a test for both teams.

In the final match of round 10 Casey Comets accounted for the cellar dwellers Preston 4-1. The win gives them three wins in the last four weeks to put them on level points with Ashburton, but in fifth position on goal difference.

The Comets raced to a two nil lead by half time and doubled their score with another two in the second. Prins, Nicola netted two for Casey while Melissa Atherton and Laura Croft where also on target for the Comets.

Preston managed to score through the skilful Sarah Sumner, but it was barely a dent in the score line for the Comets.

Next weekends round is a blockbuster with the top four teams playing each other. Top team Heidelberg take on third team Sandringham while Box Hill face Ashburton in a second versus fourth clash.



Preston keeper Jamie Floros saves at the feet of Nicola Prins  
PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



Shaunna Murray (Casey) is about to come down on top of Jess Cvetkovska (Preston).  
PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

## WPL RESULTS

**Box Hill Inter 2**  
(D Niceski, A Sinclair)  
**South Melbourne Womens 2**  
(N Cook, L Spiranovic) (HT: 2-1)

**Bendigo Vipers 3**  
(S Richardson 2, I Jakab)  
**Sandringham 0** (HT: 1-0),

**Bye Ashburton** (HT: -),  
**Altona City 2**  
**Heidelberg Utd 0** (HT: 1-0),

**Preston Lions 1** (S Sumner)  
**Casey Comets 4** (MJ Atherton, L Croft, NJ Prins 2) (HT: 0-2)

Reserves:  
Box Hill Inter 2 South Melbourne  
2, BASL 0 Sandringham 4, Bye  
Ashburton, Altona City 0 Heidelberg  
Utd 0, Preston Lions 0 Casey  
Comets 8

## WPL NEXT ROUND

**Altona City v Casey Comets**  
HC Kim Reserve  
Sun 27 Jun KO 1:00PM

**South Melbourne v Bendigo Vipers**  
Mclvor Reserve  
Sun 27 Jun KO 1:00PM

**Ashburton v Box Hill Inter**  
Ashburton Park  
Sun 27 Jun KO 3:00PM

**Sandringham v Heidelberg Utd**  
Kingston Heath Soccer Complex  
Mon 28 Jun KO 8:30PM

**Bye v Preston Lions**

## WPL LADDER

|                 | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Box Hill Inter  | 9 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 20 | 7  | 18  |
| Heidelberg Utd  | 9 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 23 | 11 | 18  |
| Sandringham     | 9 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 13 | 10 | 17  |
| Ashburton       | 8 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 22 | 13 | 15  |
| Casey Comets    | 9 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 17 | 14 | 15  |
| Bendigo Vipers  | 9 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 9  | 14 | 11  |
| Altona City     | 9 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 6  | 15 | 8   |
| South Melbourne | 9 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 9  | 19 | 7   |
| Preston Lions   | 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 9  | 25 | 5   |

## WPL RESERVES

|                 | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Ashburton       | 8 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 29 | 6  | 20  |
| Sandringham     | 9 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 18 | 11 | 19  |
| Heidelberg Utd  | 9 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 18 | 6  | 17  |
| Casey Comets    | 9 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 19 | 9  | 16  |
| South Melbourne | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 15 | 12 | 12  |
| Box Hill Inter  | 9 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 17 | 14 | 11  |
| BASL            | 9 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 11 | 26 | 10  |
| Altona City     | 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 10 | 22 | 4   |
| Preston Lions   | 9 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 4  | 35 | 1   |

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com](http://fromthebackline.blogspot.com)**

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# FC Clifton Hill notch second win

By Roy Hay

Round Ten of SL1 action saw Clifton Hill's new coach Alex Kiratzoglu open his account with a priceless home win against fellow strugglers Preston, while Pascoe Vale, Langwarrin and Fawkner all ran out winners in their respective games.

## FC Clifton Hill 6 vs Preston Lions 3

Meanwhile the early signs look to be encouraging for Clifton Hill after having installed Alex Kiratzoglu as captain-coach to replace the out-going Ivan Jolic as they emerged 6-3 winners in a goal-fest against cellar-dwelling Preston Lions at Kevin Bartlett Reserve. Former South Melbourne man Steve Manceski showed his class and experience in a sublime attacking display, notching up the first of the two four-goal hauls in this week's SL1 action and putting the game beyond a spirited Preston side. Clifton Hill now sit one win away from 10th placed Malvern City. A change of coach and a much needed win will surely have a galvanizing effect on the squad, but it remains to be seen how long it can be sustained with defensive lapses continuing to plague the side's chances of getting results.

## Pascoe Vale 5 vs Malvern City 0

Luca Santili was the destroyer for Pascoe Vale in a drubbing that few would have seen coming against Malvern City's usually excellent defence. The Pascoe Vale striker grabbed four goals of varying description in a masterful performance that few in this division could hope to match, including a superb first-alf volley from an Evan Karavitis cross that left the small Hosken Reserve crowd in awe. Liam Flynn was the other scorer for Pascoe Vale, while Evan Karavitis played one of his best games for the season, finishing up with two assists to his name. Malvern have acquired a well-earned reputation as one of the staunchest defensive units in this division over the course of the season, but someone must have forgotten to tell Pascoe Vale, whose ruthlessness in front of goal was frightening at times. A tactical change may have been part of the reason, as coach George Kakaletsis' explained after the game. 'We've usually had Luca playing as a lone striker, but this week we went with two up front and I think that relaxed him and took a bit of the pressure off. He was unbelievable, his finishing was really outstanding.' Pascoe Vale have been frustrated by consistent problems with player availability this season, and Kakaletsis was relieved to finally have a full team at his disposal. 'We had 18 players available for the first time and it made a whole lot of difference. I think the boys realize now that they're actually playing for their position. Having a full team available just put the pressure on the boys, and they responded really well.' Pascoe Vale now sit comfortably mid-table, with a trip to Western Suburbs beckoning next week.

## Langwarrin 1 vs North Geelong Warriors 0

Langwarrin will count themselves lucky to have emerged from the encounter at Lawton Park with the three points, with a wasteful North Geelong side squandering numerous scoring opportunities in a pulsating encounter that belied the 1-0 scoreline. The Warriors played fluent attacking football for the majority of the game, and they were handed a priceless advantage when Langwarrin had a man sent off for two bookable offences in the first half. However, it was the home side

who opened the scoring against the run of play, with Caleb Nicholes latching onto a through ball before slotting it neatly past the goalkeeper. From then on it was all North Geelong as they pressed home the man advantage, but poor finishing denied them the win that they deserved. 'Football wise it was probably our best game of the year, but things didn't go our way,' said a disappointed Vinko Buljubasic. 'We had three clear cut chances to score, and they had a player sent off but in the end it just didn't work for us and the urgency was there for them.'

## Bulleen Lions 2 vs St.Albans Saints 2

Bulleen will be kicking themselves after squandered a 2-0 nill second half lead against a ten man St.Albans side who were rewarded for their never-say-die attitude. Honours were even in a gripping first half until Bulleen midfielder Dean Tartaglia made the most of a set-piece opportunity with a well-directed left foot strike that broke the deadlock in the 35th minute. The Lions then doubled their advantage early in the second half as their new Brazillian arrival Junior justified his signing with a neat finish. However the Saints refused to lay down, and it wasn't long until a clever near-post flick on from Josip Loncaric pulled one back for the home side, before Mark Paleka claimed a priceless equalizer 15 minutes before the end. Lions assistant Nick Crivelli lamented on the missed opportunity. 'We could have won it because they only had ten men, but you could also say we were lucky to come away with a draw. But really it was disappointing because that was the game to win.' In the end it was another fluent Bulleen performance that lacked a clinical edge, which he also acknowledged. 'We pushed the ball around well and played good possession soccer, and it wasn't a bad performance. But we just didn't have anyone to finish, and that's the problem.' And to finish off the round, Fawkner came home with the points in an engrossing encounter against Western Suburbs at CB Smith Reserve to keep their place in the top four, with a Ridvan Savlam double getting them over the line yet again. The all-important Springvale vs Whittlesea match was contested on Sunday night after publication time.



Steve Manceski (Clifton Hill) uses his skills to give Matthew Wilkinson (Preston) the slip. PHOTO; JOHN PUNSHON



St Albans' Tomi Razov tries to get a slide in against his Bulleen Lions opponent during the 2-2 draw yesterday. PHOTO: STEVE STAREK



Preston keeper Hamid Kamali blocks the ball into the air as John Theofilopoulos threatens the goal PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

## SL1 RESULTS

### FC Clifton Hill 6

(S Habib, P Katris, S Manceski 4)

### Preston Lions 3

(R Najdovski, D Sadik, M Wilkinson)

(HT: 2-1)

### Langwarrin 1

(C Nicholes)

### North Geelong Warriors 0

(HT: 0-0)

### Pascoe Vale 5

(L Santilli 4, L Flynn)

### Malvern City 0

(HT: 2-0)

### Fawkner Blues 2

(R Saglam 2)

### Western Suburbs 1

(J Kamasz) (HT: 1-0)

### St Albans Saints 2

(J Loncaric, M Paleka)

### FC Bulleen Lions 2

(D Tartaglia, AA De Melo (Junior)) (HT: 0-1)

## Under 21s:

FC Clifton Hill 1 Preston Lions

1, Langwarrin 0 North Gee-

long Warriors 0, Pascoe Vale 5

Malvern City 0 , Fawkner Blues

0 Western Suburbs 2 , St Al-

bans Saints 0 FC Bulleen Lions

1

## SL1 NEXT ROUND

### Round 11

#### North Geelong Warriors v Pascoe Vale

Elcho Park

Fri 25 Jun KO 8:30PM

#### Malvern City v St Albans Saints

Kingston Heath Soccer Complex

Sat 26 Jun KO 3:00PM

#### Whittlesea Zebras v Fawkner Blues

Epping Soccer Stadium

Sun 27 Jun KO 3:00PM

#### Preston Lions v Langwarrin

BT Connor Reserve

Sun 27 Jun KO 3:00PM

#### Western Suburbs v FC Clifton Hill

Ralph Reserve

Sun 27 Jun KO 3:00PM

#### FC Bulleen Lions v Springvale White Eagles

Veneto Social Club

Mon 28 Jun KO 8:30PM

## SL1 LADDER

|                         | P  | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|-------------------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Springvale White Eagles | 9  | 6 | 2 | 1 | 20 | 10 | 20  |
| Langwarrin              | 10 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 22 | 17 | 19  |
| FC Bulleen Lions        | 10 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 20 | 8  | 18  |
| Fawkner Blues           | 10 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 14 | 12 | 18  |
| North Geelong Warriors  | 10 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 15 | 7  | 16  |
| Whittlesea Zebras       | 9  | 5 | 1 | 3 | 15 | 13 | 16  |
| Western Suburbs         | 10 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 17 | 13 | 15  |
| Pascoe Vale             | 10 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 14 | 14 | 13  |
| St Albans Saints        | 10 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 20 | 18 | 10  |
| Malvern City            | 10 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 9  | 25 | 9   |
| FC Clifton Hill         | 10 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 14 | 22 | 6   |
| Preston Lions           | 10 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 7  | 28 | 1   |

## SL1 U21 LADDER

|                         | P  | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|-------------------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| North Geelong Warriors  | 10 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 22 | 4  | 24  |
| FC Bulleen Lions        | 10 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 23 | 8  | 23  |
| Langwarrin              | 10 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 17 | 10 | 20  |
| Springvale White Eagles | 9  | 5 | 1 | 3 | 15 | 11 | 16  |
| Western Suburbs         | 9  | 5 | 1 | 3 | 18 | 18 | 16  |
| Pascoe Vale             | 10 | 4 | 0 | 6 | 22 | 19 | 12  |
| Whittlesea Zebras       | 8  | 3 | 3 | 2 | 12 | 10 | 12  |
| St Albans Saints        | 10 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 17 | 15 | 10  |
| Preston Lions           | 10 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 17 | 20 | 8   |
| Malvern City            | 10 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 14 | 27 | 8   |
| FC Clifton Hill         | 10 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 9  | 26 | 5   |
| Fawkner Blues           | 10 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 4  | 22 | 5   |



# Goal feast at Northcote

By Gordon Bennett

**Northcote City and Altona Magic were involved in an amazing VPL Round 15 match at John Cain Memorial Park on Saturday, which concluded with an astonishing final score of 7-5 in favour of the home side.**

Incredibly, the half-time score was 2-1 to Altona Magic and six goals were scored in a barnstorming 12 minute period from the 62nd to the 74th minutes. All up, 9 goals were scored in an incredible second half – one that would have to be seen to be believed.

It actually could have been more, if not for a penalty that was missed by Trent Rixon.

The scoring sequence went as follows: Magic scored first to go up 0-1. Northcote then equalised though a Bradley Norton penalty to level the score 1-1. Magic then scored again to go up 1-2, and kept that lead heading into the break.

When the teams returned to the field, no one in the wildest dreams could imagine what was going to unfold over the next forty-five minutes.

The Magic continued with their ascendancy and scored within a couple minutes of the restart to make it 1-3 and looked like they were on their way to reproducing yet another high scoring blitzkrieg.

Bear in mind, that since Sash Becvinovski was appointed as Magic's player-coach a few weeks ago, the Magic have been in rampant scoring form and have recorded a 6-2 win against Bentleigh Greens, a 6-0 against Sunshine Georgies and another 6-0 against the NTC squad. With about thirty minutes to go though, Northcote coach Peter Tsolakis brought on Trent Rixon, who due to soreness had started on the bench after he had been away all week trialling with the A-

League's Brisbane Roar, but paid immediate dividends to score and reduce the margin to 2-3.

Showing no signs of fatigue, Rixon then scored another goal in quick succession to make the scoreline read 3-3.

Not to be outdone, the Magic then proceeded to attack the other end and were duly rewarded to make the score 3-4.

James Kalifatidis then embarks on his scoring sequence to make the score 4-4. Less than a minute later, the Magic get their noses out in front 4-5.

Rixon then had the chance to conjure a timely hat-trick but fails to convert his spot-kick.

Within a couple of minutes, Kalifatidis has other ideas and then duly nets again to make it 5-5.

Before you could get your breath back, another penalty is awarded to Northcote and this time Bradley Norton makes no mistake from the spot, putting the home side ahead for the first time in the match at 6-5, and miraculously becomes the fifth player in the match to have scored a brace and now on the cusp of a hat-trick.

With approximately 6 minutes remaining on the clock, Kalifatidis puts the game beyond Magic's reach and grabs his hat-trick and completing the remarkable 7-5 scoreline.

Northcote coach Peter Tsolakis commented after the match, "I think the goalkeepers will probably need counselling. It must be said however, that both defences were an absolute shemuzzle. It was attacking soccer by both teams and if ever the FFV wanted an advertisement for football in terms of getting people through the gate to watch a game of goals, then this was it." He went on to add, "I mean, in over 35 years I've been involved in soccer I've never seen anything like it."

Asked if it was a good experience,



Winners are grinners: James Kalifatidis, Bradley Norton and Hayden D'Agostino in the boot-room. PHOTO: PETER PSARROS

Tsolakis said, "For us, because we won it was fantastic. But we really need to talk about a few things defensively. The three points were important because it enables us to keep a gap between us and Altona. Now we are eight points away from them with seven games to go, and I would imagine it would make things a little bit more difficult for them to catch us. We've got to concentrate and try and scrounge a few more points to get away from that relegation zone. That's really our aim as a club. I'm just happy we got the points, and for the fans they got to see plenty of goals. They paid \$12 to see the match, so it worked out to be a dollar a goal!"

Magic coach Becvinovski was also blown away with the match and the scoreline, "It was very stressful and expected a lot more fight from my boys. It's something that I've never seen before in soccer, but I think sometimes it better to

win 1-0 or 2-0. If you're going to hit the front a couple of times you'd expect the experienced players on the park to be able to control things and defend. Today was a letdown. Even though we scored five goals, you can't expect to be happy with conceding seven goals."

After the final whistle was blown quite a number of spectators congregated in the bar to discuss what they had just seen. While the place was abuzz, most people were in shock and still trying to comprehend and absorb what they had just witnessed as attempts were made to try and recall any similar scorelines from seasons past. The best offering was from Kris Kalifatidis, ironically the father of hat-trick hero James. Kris remembered playing for South Melbourne against Ringwood Wilhelmina in 1974 when the score finished 7-7.



Seventh heaven! Northcote's James Kalifatidis puts this icing on the cake in the 7-5 victory against the Magic and scores his hat-trick. PHOTO: PETER PSARROS

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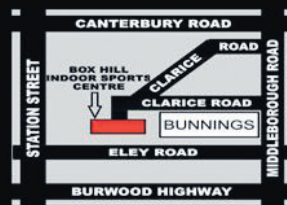


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2

1

Match Details:

Melbourne Knights: Mattei, Filipovic, Bran, Skara, Surey (Gleize 88'), Tiatto, Praiz (J. Colosimo 57'), Zahra, Magdic, A. Colosimo (Cannell 73'), Townson.

Goals: Townson 61'pen, 82'pen

Yellow Cards: Surey 44', Skara 80'

Red Cards: None

Hume City: Acevski, Bosevski, Erdogan, Pace, Riccobene, Behich (Roza 60'), Opazo, Cardozo, Thompson, Vlahos, Petrevski.

Goals: Thompson 48'pen

Yellow Cards: Vlahos 31', Thompson 67', Riccobene 90')

Red Cards: Acevski 60', Thompson 68', Erdogan 82'

Match Stats:

Shots: MK 11 HC 5  
Target: MK 4 HC 2  
Corners: MK 3 HC 3

# Hume sees triple red!

By Andrew Fisher

Every once in a while a football match will throw up a result that makes you stand up and say 'what the heck!'; this weekend the VPL produced two of these, the first being Northcote's 7-5 win over Altona Magic which more resembled the score of a tennis match, and then there was this match between the Melbourne Knights and Hume City at a Knights Stadium.

Don't let the 2-1 score line fool you, this match had it all. The first half however gave no indication of what was to following, as both teams spurned half chances in what has a dull opening stanza.

It took just three minutes into the second half for this game to blow right open, as a mistimed Filipovic challenge just inside the box gave Hume City the chance to open the scoring from the penalty spot. Ross Thompson stepped up and slotted the penalty, but to the referee's disliking and was ordered to re-take the spot kick. Thompson showed his composure by coolly sending Knights keeper Sebastian Mattei the opposite direction.

The Knights almost went two down just moments later as Mattei was caught in possession, gifting the ball to Aziz Behich unmarked on the edge of the area, the keeper recovered quickly to divert Behich's effort for a corner saving his blushes.

The supporters of the Knights' had that sinking feeling yet again, before a moment of controversy turned the match on its head in the 60th minute. A Tiatto cross was flicked on by Bran



Ross Thompson (Hume) tries to hold off Adrian Zahra (Knights), as Richie Cardozo looks on.  
PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

to the back post, but before Townson could nod home, Hume custodian Lupce Acevski parried the ball away as

the two collided and landed in the back of the net. Whilst Hume was launching a counter attack, Acevski and Townson exchanged strong words with each other, before the keeper had a brain explosion and was seen to take a swing at Townson resulting in his immediate dismissal and a penalty to the Knights. Hume protested profusely, but to no avail as substitute keeper Roza was sent the wrong way by Townson leveling the scores at 1-1

The Knights' sensing their chance of clinching a vital win pushed forward in search of a winner, and it nearly came in the 66th minute when Townson smashed his shot just wide of the upright from the edge of the box

Things got from bad to worse for Hume, as Ross Thompson was next to have a brain explosion by committing two book able offences in the space of 60 seconds, leaving the visitors to play the last 20mins with just nine players.

Josip Magdic almost put the Knights in the lead on 75mins, when his driving shot was expertly tipped over by Roza in the Hume goal, who was looking rather nervous before that save.

Knights continued to push forward in search of a winner, stretching the undermanned Hume City wide at every opportunity, in the 82nd minute Townson released a defence splitting though ball for Colosimo to run onto, however

before the striker could unleash his shot he was brought down from behind by Erdogan inside the penalty box, leaving the referee no option but to award another penalty to the Knights, and astonishingly show the red card for the third time to Hume City.

Controversy sparked when the dismissed Erdogan somehow eluded everyone by staying on the field as Townson converted the spot kick to put the Knights into a 2-1 lead. The referee then aware of Erdogan presence, ordered him off the field and then to everyone's confusion told the Knight's they needed to re-take the penalty. Players and supporters protested profusely and after a long consultation with his assistant, the match official decided to allow the original goal.

The Knights easily held onto their lead for the last five minutes, clinching a vital three points and moving them clear of the relegation zone for the time being. Next week they take on league leaders Richmond at Kevin Bartlett reserve on Friday night, whilst the undisciplined Hume City's nightmare at Knights stadium is set to last another week as they take on Sunshine Georgies at same venue next Monday.



Kevin Townson (Knights) gets in front of Steven Pace (Hume). PHOTO:DANIEL FLIS

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HEIDELBERG UNITED



3

RICHMOND EAGLES



0

Match Details:

Heidelberg United: Steve TILOVSKI; Sayeedreza HOS-SAINI (Les DOUMBALIS 90'), Paul MILLER, Hrvoje MATKOVIC, George SLEFENDORFAS (Nicholas MARINOS 56'), Josip KOZIC, Luke BYLES, Craig ELVIN, Steve MARTIN, Osagie EDERARO, Saso ALEKSOVSKI (Antonio LA VERDE 85')

Goals: Kozic 2 (31' penalty, 71' penalty), LaVerde 86'

Yellow cards: Aleksovski, Elvin, Slefandorfas, Kozic

Richmond: Stjepan GAL; Andrew VIOLA, Michael FER-RANTE, Dimitri TSIARAS, Jesse KRNCVIC (Peter SAWAN 65' - Mitch BISSINGER 88' ), Milos LUJIC, Daniel VISEVIC, Antun KOVACIC, Michael CATALANO (Davey VAN 'T SCHIP 65'), Tomislav MILARDOVIC, Steven TOPALOVIC

Yellow cards: Milardovic, Catalano

Player of the Match: Josip Kozic (Heidelberg United)  
Crowd: approx. 500

# Top notch Bergrers stun Eagles

By John Fotinos

Heidelberg United has stunned Richmond with an emphatic 3-0 victory over the league leaders at the Olympic Village this evening. With its fourth straight home win, Heidelberg moves up to ninth spot on the table, having started to-night's match at the bottom.

The game was played on a surface that was damp under foot & cut up considerably due to the recent wet spell of weather. However, fine but cool conditions were on hand for the duration of the match.

The home side had the better of the opening exchanges, and the first real chance came to Heidelberg's Hossaini in the sixth minute. A neatly floated in cross on the right by Kozic found his unmarked team-mate, but Hossaini scuffed his first-time shot at the far post. Richmond were finding it hard to penetrate through the compact Heidelberg midfield, although Lujic almost wriggled free of Elvin in the 15th minute in Richmond's first meaningful foray forward. In the 25th minute, Richmond's keeper Gal was forced to tip over a speculative curling shot from Ederaro, following a

neat Heidelberg move.

The opening goal of the match came from a penalty kick awarded to Heidelberg. A through ball flicked into the box saw Milardovic of Richmond drag down Aleksovski, and it was Kozic that stepped up to fire home the spot kick past Gal to give his side the lead.

Richmond looked to square up the ledger, and began to lift their tempo, but failed to create any clear cut chances for the remainder of the first half. Shortly before half-time a volley from Kozic flashed wide of the goals, after Richmond had only partially cleared a Heidelberg free kick. The teams went into the main break with Heidelberg holding their 1-0 lead.

Early in the second half, an Aleksovki shot was well saved by Gal, as Heidelberg sought to gain control of the match. Richmond responded with a move that saw Krncevic shoot well over Tilovski's goals in the visitors' first real attempt on goal for the match. A free kick in a dangerous position to Richmond in the 53rd minute saw Kovacic's deflected effort held by Tilovski. Heidelberg's Slefandorfas had a chance to double his team's lead in the 56th minute, but shot wide of Gal's near post as the keeper did well

to narrow the angle & force the striker to shoot wide. Soon after, Heidelberg brought on striker Nick Marinos for Slefandorfas to good effect, as Marinos gave the home side's attack a cutting edge in the ensuing half hour.

On the hour mark, Gal again made a great save to deny Aleksovski, who was now beginning to find space in attack as a result of Richmond committing more players forward in search of an equaliser.

Richmond made a double substitution in the 67th minute, bringing on Sawan & Van't Schip in an attempt to get back into the game, but it was the home side that looked the more likely to score. With midfielder Kozic pulling the strings in midfield, his solo run was almost rewarded when his lateral pass found Marinos, but the striker's shot was well blocked by Milardovic's late lunge.

In the 71st minute, Marinos was brought down by Sawan in the box, leaving the referee little option but to award another penalty to Heidelberg. Again, Kozic stepped up to blast home the spot kick to give Heidelberg a deserved 2-0 lead. Richmond looked to hit back immediately, as Sawan attempted to make amends for his indiscretion with a shot on goal

that was blocked away for a corner. In the 79th minute, Ederaro was almost gifted a goal when Gal's throw after a gather fell at the feet of the Heidelberg player, but his shot sailed well over the bar. Minutes later, Marinos shot just over the bar as Heidelberg's pace and movement up front threatened to overrun a tiring Richmond defence.

The inevitable third goal for Heidelberg came after a counter-attack in the 85th minute, when Kozic slipped a ball to the right for Ederaro to run onto. Having caught the Richmond defence square, his accurate pass found substitute LaVerde unmarked on the opposite side, leaving the latter the relatively simple task of tapping into the net with his very first touch of the game. To their credit, Richmond continued to press for a late consolation goal, but in the end Heidelberg ran out 3-0 victors on the night, much to the joy of their elated supporters.

In the next round of fixtures, Richmond host the Melbourne Knights next Friday night (June 25) at Kevin Bartlett Reserve, whilst Heidelberg United travel to Jack Edwards Reserve on Monday June 28 to take on Oakleigh Cannons. In the U/21 fixture tonight, Richmond 2 def. Heidelberg United 1.

Josip Kozic scores one of his two goals from the spot in last night's match between Heidelberg United and Richmond Eagles. PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS



|                       | P  | W | D | L | F  | A  | PT |
|-----------------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Richmond              | 15 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 23 | 19 | 28 |
| Oakleigh Cannons      | 15 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 24 | 18 | 27 |
| Hume City             | 15 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 26 | 22 | 22 |
| Northcote City        | 15 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 28 | 23 | 20 |
| Green Gully Cavaliers | 15 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 18 | 17 | 20 |
| Dandenong Thunder     | 15 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 15 | 20 | 18 |
| Bentleigh Greens      | 14 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 17 | 24 | 18 |
| South Melbourne       | 14 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 24 | 18 | 16 |
| Heidelberg Utd        | 14 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 24 | 25 | 15 |
| Melbourne Knights     | 15 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 20 | 22 | 15 |
| Sunshine George Cross | 15 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 15 | 27 | 15 |
| Altona Magic          | 14 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 27 | 26 | 13 |



N.T.C v Dandenong Thunder

George Andrews Reserve

Wed 23 Jun KO 8:30PM

Bentleigh Greens v Northcote City

Kingston Heath Soccer Complex

Fri 25 Jun KO 8:30PM

Richmond Eagles v Melbourne Knights

Kevin Bartlett Reserve

Fri 25 Jun KO 8:30PM

Altona Magic v Green Gully Cavaliers

Paisley Park

Sat 26 Jun KO 7:00PM

South Melbourne v Dandenong Thunder

Kingston Heath Soccer Complex

Sun 27 Jun KO 3:00PM

Sunshine George Cross v Hume City

Knights Stadium

Mon 28 Jun KO 8:15PM

Oakleigh Cannons v Heidelberg Utd

Jack Edwards Reserve

Mon 28 Jun KO 8:30PM



|                       | P  | W  | D | L  | F  | A  | GD | Pt |
|-----------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|
| South Melbourne       | 16 | 13 | 2 | 1  | 49 | 23 | 41 |    |
| N.T.C                 | 17 | 7  | 7 | 3  | 48 | 28 | 28 |    |
| Oakleigh Cannons      | 15 | 7  | 6 | 2  | 36 | 25 | 27 |    |
| Richmond              | 15 | 8  | 2 | 5  | 31 | 22 | 26 |    |
| Northcote City        | 17 | 6  | 5 | 6  | 42 | 38 | 23 |    |
| Heidelberg Utd        | 14 | 8  | 1 | 5  | 25 | 20 | 22 |    |
| Hume City             | 15 | 7  | 3 | 5  | 37 | 27 | 21 |    |
| Bentleigh Greens      | 16 | 7  | 0 | 9  | 27 | 32 | 21 |    |
| Altona Magic          | 16 | 5  | 4 | 7  | 21 | 28 | 19 |    |
| Green Gully Cavaliers | 17 | 5  | 4 | 8  | 25 | 43 | 19 |    |
| Sunshine George Cross | 16 | 4  | 1 | 11 | 24 | 45 | 13 |    |
| Melbourne Knights     | 16 | 4  | 2 | 10 | 22 | 33 | 11 |    |
| Dandenong Thunder     | 14 | 1  | 3 | 10 | 14 | 37 | 6  |    |

Bentleigh Greens 4

Sunshine George Cross 1

Dandenong Thunder

Oakleigh Cannons

Northcote City 2

Altona Magic 2

Green Gully Cavaliers 2

South Melbourne 3

Melbourne Knights 2

Hume City 5

Heidelberg Utd

Richmond



# Socceroo hopes hang by a thread

By Russ Gibbs  
Ratings by Jacob Kagi

The Socceroos are still in with a chance of progression to the last sixteen in the 2010 FIFA World Cup following a 1-1 draw with Ghana in their second Group match of the competition. Pim Verbeek's men however need to defeat Serbia in their final match and hope that the result of the Ghana versus Germany clash also goes their way in order to progress.

And, if that scenario is too occur, the Socceroos will need to do it without their star man as Harry Kewell became the second Australian to be sent off in this World Cup when he was dismissed for hand-ball on the goal line directly leading to Ghana's equaliser from the penalty spot.

Kewell's dismissal soured any chance that Australia had off winning the match with their African opponents after the Socceroos had largely been in control of the game up until that decisive moment.

Australia had begun the match in superb fashion after recalling Marco Bresciano, David Carney and Kewell into the starting line-up alongside Brett Holman who had come on as a late substitute in the opening defeat to Germany. And it was Bresciano and Holman who were at the centre of a dream start for the Socceroos as they took the lead inside of eleven minutes.

Carl Valeri had started the move seeing his tremendous burst from midfield stopped rather agriculturally by Ghanaian defender Anthony Annan who felled the Canberra-born midfielder with a crude challenge. Bresciano sized up the free-kick before unleashing a fierce drive which Richard Kingson in the Ghana goal

failed to hold, spilling the ball into the path of the onrushing Holman who coolly side-footed into the roof of the net via Kingson's left glove.

It was the perfect start for Australia who knew that a loss would end their World Cup ambitions, but Ghana, who had defeated Serbia 1-0 in their first match, suddenly came to the fore stringing together some click passes which ended with Andre Ayew seeing his shot superbly blocked by Lucas Neill.

Neill repeated the feat moments later when the ever-dangerous Asamoah Gyan burst into the penalty area only to see his effort turned away by Neill, sliding to cover. From the resultant corner though, disaster struck.

Luke Wilkshire and Brett Emerton looked to have the danger covered as Ayew attempted to cross from the right hand flank. However, after dispossessing the Ghanaian winger Wilkshire dallied and Ayew recovered to skip inside the Dynamo Moscow player and step outside Emerton before cutting the ball back into the path of Jonathan Mensah. The defender, only in the team due to the unavailability of namesake John Mensah, struck a shot goalwards that seemed certain to end in the net only to be inadvertently stopped by Kewell's upper arm.

Italian referee Roberto Rosetti had no hesitation in awarding the penalty and following the letter of the law in dismissing Kewell for denying a clear goalscoring opportunity. Gyan, who had struck the winner against Serbia from the spot, repeated the trick easily sending spot-kick hero Mark Schwarzer the wrong way, slotting into the corner to level the scores.

While Australia looked to regroup Ghana sensed a chance to take the ini-

tiative. Firstly Prince Tagoe dragged a shot wide when well placed before Kevin-Prince Boateng advanced, cut outside and drilled a low right-foot shot that Schwarzer did well to dive and push away to safety past his right post.

A poor challenge on Bresciano by Lee Addy saw the midfielder booked when a harsher punishment could well have been dished out before the half time whistle sounded with the teams locked at 1-1.

Playing the entire second forty-five minutes with only ten men did not deter Australia in the slightest from their main mission, which was to secure all three points if possible. As expected though Ghana threatened more as they dominated possession but were reduced to tentative long-range efforts that rarely threatened the Socceroos defence. The main protagonist was goalscorer Gyan who more than once tried his luck from distance.

Prince-Boateng went close from a shot that skewed wide whilst Gyan skinned Moore before firing over a low cross that just eluded the advancing Asamoah who stretched but failed to make contact.

Amazingly it was Australia who made the more clear cut openings with Scott Chipperfield heading over as a substitute for Bresciano.

And it was Verbeek's team who should have won the match wasting a gilt-edged chance to claim all three points in the 71st minute. Chipperfield intercepted a poor clearance and fed a delightful pass through to an unmarked Wilkshire inside the Ghana penalty area. Wilkshire took a touch on the turn but dawdled on his choice of finish and ended up firing straight at Kingson's body as the

## Match Details

Australia 1 (Brett Holman 11') Ghana 1 (Asamoah Gyan 25' (pen))

Ghana (4-1-4-1): 22. Richard Kingson, 2. Hans Sarpei, 3. Asamoah Gyan, 4. John Pansil, 6. Anthony Annan, 8. Jonathan Mensah, 12. Prince Tagoe (20. Quincy Owusu-Abeyie 55'), 13. Andre Ayew, 19. Lee Addy, 21. Kwadwo Asamoah (11. Sulley Muntari 76'), 23. Kevin-Prince Boateng (14. Matthew Amoah 85')

Australia (4-5-1): 1. Mark Schwarzer, 2. Lucas Neill (c), 3. Craig Moore, 5. Jason Culina, 7. Brett Emerton, 8. Luke Wilkshire (17. Nikita Rukavytska 84'), 10. Harry Kewell, 14. Brett Holman (9. Josh Kennedy 67'), 16. Carl Valeri, 21. David Carney, 23. Marco Bresciano (11. Scott Chipperfield 65')

Discipline: YELLOW CARDS: 3. Craig Moore (Australia), 6. Anthony Annan, 8. Jonathan Mensah, 19. Lee Addy (all Ghana) RED CARD: 10. Harry Kewell (Australia)

REFEREE: Roberto Rosetti (Italy)

Venue: Royal Bafokeng Stadium (Rustenburg) Attendance: 34,812

## Group D

|           | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Ghana     | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4   |
| Germany   | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 3   |
| Serbia    | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3   |
| Australia | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1   |

Ghana 'keeper raced out to meet the Socceroos midfielder, denying what would have been a crucial goal.

Ghana had their chance to win it in stoppage time when Quincy Owusu-Abeyie, who had come on for Tagoe, fired a shot goalwards that Schwarzer palmed over the crossbar to keep both parity and Australian dreams of a second round place alive.

## AUSTRALIA

**Mark Schwarzer: 7** – Made a couple of fine saves and could not be faulted for letting in a well-taken penalty. One of several improvers from the Germany game.

**Luke Wilkshire: 5** – Maybe it's harsh to judge a player on one incident, but if he had have taken the several chances he had to clear the ball or even just knock it out on the cross that led to Ghana's penalty and Harry Kewell's red card, the game could have been so different. Offered nothing going forward in the first half, but was slightly better towards the end of the game.

**Lucas Neill: 8** – Responded to justifiable criticism after his woeful performance against Germany with a vastly improved effort. Neill marshalled the defence well, making several vital tackles and interceptions and helping to create a few decent attacking thrusts with his assured passing coming out of defence.

**Craig Moore: 6** – Certainly improved on his last game and his performances in the friendlies, where it seemed sure his time had passed him by. Still looked off the pace and somewhat error-prone, but made up for it with several vital interventions, often helping out to cover the mistakes of David Carney. **David Carney: 5** – Ghana rightly decided Carney was a weak-link in the Australian side and targeted him in the first half, exposing him several times. Ghana did that less so after half-time though as Carney did improve. For an attacking full-back, he provided no forward drive.

**Jason Culina: 4** – It's becoming clear he isn't up to international standard anymore. Backed up a poor effort against Germany with a performance where he regularly gave the ball away and didn't shield the back four.

**Carl Valeri: 8** – Played the Vince Grella role from Germany 2006 perfectly, much better than Grella could now. Worked tirelessly to stop counter-attacks and win the ball back for Australia, especially in the final 20 minutes when Australia were pushing for an equaliser. Will be a vital part of the Socceroos team in the next qualifying campaign.

**Brett Emerton: 5** – Offered little on the right wing, with his crossing disappointing and his inability to join in promising attacks frustrating.

Brett Holman: 8 – Backed up an impressive effort against Germany with another great performance, where he was one of Australia's better players and scored Australia's goal with a calm finish. Worked incredibly hard after Kewell was sent off and had to be replaced for fresh legs after 67 minutes.

**Mark Bresciano: 6** – For a player renowned for being dangerous on the ball, his foot skills let him down far too often. Was involved in some good attacking moments for Australia, especially in the first half, but never bothered to track back and help Carney.

**Harry Kewell: 7** – Was one of Australia's best players in the short period he was on the pitch, and looked like he was going to make the attack formidable throughout the match. The sending off was the correct call, but it's impossible to blame Kewell for a reflex action.

**Scott Chipperfield: 6** – Had some decent moments going forward after coming on as a substitute, but wayward passing and inability to finish a couple of good chances let him down.

**Josh Kennedy: 6** – Australia looked more dangerous when he was on the pitch, with his late inclusion seeming to give its attack a real structure. Far too often he simply ran into opponents and gave away obvious free-kicks though.

**Nikita Rukavyttsya: 5** – Barely noticeable in a substitute appearance for the final seven minutes. Having to bring him on for late attacking fire is surely one of Australia's main shortfalls.

## GHANA

**Richard Kingson: 4** – Had a couple of decent saves later in the game, but his poor effort on the free-kick, which he parried straight to Brett Holman was at fault for Ghana going a goal down.

**Lee Addy: 6** – A solid performance from a squad player drafted into the starting XI as a centre back due to unavailability of others.

Jonathan Mensah: 6 – Looked incredibly comfortable for a 19-year-old, is the sort of young defender Australia would love to have. Could use a bit more urgency at times though.

**Hans Sarpei: 5** – Clearly lacked the ability to adequately judge through balls, although he did make some decent interventions.

**John Pansil: 7** – Astute defensively and dangerous with his wide runs, one of Ghana's better players.

**Kevin-Prince Boateng: 5** – It's amazing someone who played 87 minutes could do so little. Lacked urgency and crossed poorly.

**Anthony Annan: 8** – Played the defensive midfield role admirably, working hard and stopping some promising counters for Australia. Looked comfortable on the ball too.

**Andre Ayew: 8** – A vital part of every good attack Ghana had. Australia had no way to limit his impressive effort.

**Prince Tagoe: 4** – Had plenty of involvement, but none of it was good. Shot poorly several times and wasted good chances for Ghana with poor passes or touches.

**Kwadwo Asamoah: 5** – Had one great chance to put Ghana in front, but was unconvincing in the first half and laconic in the second, seeing him taken off.

**Asamoah Gyan: 8** – Arguably Ghana's best player, always looked dangerous with the ball at his feet, made promising runs and worked harder than many of his teammates.

**Quincy Owusu-Abeyie: 4** – Australia could breathe a sigh of relief every time he touched the ball after coming on with 34 minutes left, as a horrible long-distance shot was almost always to follow.

**Sulley Muntari: 5** – Not his best effort, but still looked dangerous at times in a cameo role. Needed to get forward more though.

**Matthew Amoah: 5** – Didn't have time to have any real impact.



Brett Holman knocks in the rebound from Mark Bresciano's free-kick to hand Australia the lead against Ghana. PHOTO: SMP IMAGES



# THE MATILDAS

**goal!**  
Weekly

*QUEENS OF THE AFC ASIA CUP 2010*



FOOTBALL  
FEDERATION  
AUSTRALIA



Sealed with a kiss:  
Sally Shipard and  
Melissa Barbieri

**The Westfield Matildas braved one of their toughest ever encounters to beat DPR Korea on penalties and win the 2010 AFC Women's Asian Cup.**

On their second attempt for Asia's biggest football prize the Westfield Matildas defied a rain-soaked and humid Chengdu night and a rapidly deteriorating pitch to become the first Australian team to win the Asian Cup.

Following a tense opening 19 minutes of end-to-end football, Westfield Matildas' youngster Sam Kerr opened the scoring when Clare Polkinghorne played in a diagonal ball and, beating the offside trap, Kerr guided the ball past the DPR Korea goalkeeper Hong Myong Hui.

The goal allowed Australia to increase

their possession and with boosted confidence began to play the ball more and wrestle back control of the game from a DPR team that started the stronger.

DPR Korea looked dangerous on the break and with extra numbers out wide managed to overlap Australia on the right and put in some dangerous crosses but the Koreans failed to put the finishing touch on them.

With the game ebbing and flowing between the two teams attacking raids the Westfield Matildas' Servet Uzunlar and Kim Carroll ensured the Australian's would go to the break with the advantage with the pair a constant presence for the Westfield Matildas.

Late in the half and a delightful ball from Collette McCallum allowed Kate

Gill to turn with her first touch and found space to shoot with the ball just flying over the DPR goal.

The second half began much the same as the first ended with both teams fighting for every ball and every inch on the sparse and gravelly surface.

In the 59th minute Garriock did some dancing on the ball before cutting it back to Elise Kellond-Knight whose driven cross found the head of Polkinghorne but her powerful header was just off target.

Minutes later and Sam Kerr was free down the right but her ball into the box rose too high for Gill to get the header and create the two goal buffer Australia so desperately wanted.

Despite some excellent short passing from the DPR side, their final ball was

consistently lacking.

Australia looked to be in a perilous position in the 70th minute when Yun Hyon Hi got clear of the Australian defense only for the impeccable Westfield Matildas goalkeeper Melissa Barbieri to stand tall and make a fantastic save low to her left to keep the score at 1-nil.

Moments later and DPR Korea came at the Australian's again with Ra Un Sim beating Kellond-Knight into the box with her shot crashing into the side netting.

However DPR Korea could not be stopped, and with their momentum building a curling ball in from the right found the head of Jo Jun Mi who placed her header into the far corner of Barbieri's goal to level the scores.

Australia replied almost immediately

with McCallum's perfect through ball finding Polkinghorne who, with the keeper to beat, could not find the target.

Head Coach Tom Sermanni, revealing freshly darkened hair for the first time in the tournament, replaced the impressive Sam Kerr with Kyah Simon hoping that the fresh striker could bring some life to the Australian attack.

With eight minutes to go in normal time the rain started to plummet down making the already smog filled pitch look like a bad day in Barnsley.

With four minutes of time added on, Australia received another scare with the ball coming in from the left and Un Sim's header going just wide of the target.

By the beginning of extra time the Chengdu Sports Center pitch was a boggy

mire making the ground almost impossible to play football on.

Aivi Luik and Kylie Ledbrook came on during extra time for Collette McCallum and Elise Kellond-Knight who had both run themselves into the ground, producing strong performances to bolster the Westfield Matildas core.

DPR hit the post late on but the scores remained level.

The biggest scare for the Westfield Matildas came late in the second half of injury time when the ball held up too much for Barbieri in the muddy conditions and her clearance cannoned off Hyon Hi and just wide of the Australian goal.

With the match level at the end of full-time the game headed for penalties.

DPR Korea took first honours in the pen-

alty shootout and struck with purpose.

Australia followed up with Shipard hitting the target leveling the scores again.

DPR Korea handed the Westfield Matildas their biggest chance when Yun Song Mi missed to the right leaving the match open which the Aussies grabbed with both hands, sinking the remainder of their attempts with Gill, Garriock and Ledbrook finishing with complete composure.

Kyah Simon was left with the honours of securing a historic victory and stepped up to slot the ball into the top right sending the Westfield Matildas team into wild celebrations.

"I think this would be the best highlight of my career so far," said Tom Sermanni.

"With this group of girls and the lead-up we had this is just a fantastic result.

"I couldn't be prouder of this group of girls and what they have achieved in such a short time."

"I think it was an amazing effort by all of us and I thought we dug really deep and showed the true Aussie spirit to win the match," said Servet Uzunlar.

"To not only qualify but to become the number one team in Asia is an absolutely fantastic achievement."

**Australia 1 (Sam Kerr 19')  
DPR Korea 1 (Ra Un Sim 73')  
Australia win on penalties 5-4  
Sunday, 30 May 2010**

**Chengdu Sports Center Stadium,  
Chengdu, China  
Referee: Sachiko Yamagishi**

**Australia starting line-up: 1.Melissa BARBIERI (gk) (c), 4.Clare POLKINGHORNE, 5.Lauren COLTHORPE, 6.Servet UZUNLAR, 7.Heather GARRIOCK, 12. Kate GILL, 14.Collette MCCALLUM (27.Aivi LUIK 97'), 15.Sally SHIPARD, 16.Elise KELLOND-KNIGHT (10.Kylie LEDBROOK 101'), 22.Sam KERR (17.Kyah SIMON 75'), 23.Kim Carroll**

**Substitutes not used: 18.Lydia WILLIAMS (gk), 3.Karla REUTER, 13.Thea SLATYER, 19.Leena KHAMIS, 25.Casey DUMONT (gk), 31.Teigen ALLEN**

**Injured: Tameka Butt, Sarah Walsh, Lisa De Vanna**

**Yellow cards:**  
**Red cards: Nil**

**DPR Korea starting line-up: 1.Hong Myong Hui (gk), 4.Yun Song Mi, 5.Choe Yong Sim, 6.Ra Un Sim, 8.Jo Yun Mi, 9.Rei Ye Gyeong, 10.Kim Yong Ae (14.Yun Hyon Hi 53'), 11.Kim Kyong Hwa (15. Mun Chol Mi 70'), 13.Kim Chung Sim (20.Ri Hyon Suk 103'), 16.Yu Jong Hui, 21.Song Jong Sun**

**Substitutes not used: 3.Kwon Jong Sun, 7.Choe Un Ju, 12.Kim Un Ju, 17.Jon Myong Hwa, 18.Jo Yun Mi (gk), 22.Ri Jin Sim (gk)**

**Yellow cards: Choe Yong Sim 45'**  
**Red cards: Nil**



Sally Shipard shows she's got the stomach to take her kick in the penalty shoot-out. PHOTO: PAUL LAU



The Matildas are No. 1 in Asia after a heart-stopping climax in the Final. PHOTO: PAUL LAU



Golden girl Sam Kerr gets the applause from Sally Shipard and Katie Gill. PHOTO: PAUL LAU

PHOTOS: PAUL LAU